

Tory gloom over flat economy

Treasury clears way for tax cuts in Budget

By COLIN NARBROUGHLAND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE Treasury yesterday broke its traditional pre-Budget silence to paint its gloomiest picture yet of the economy, in a move seen by the City as clear preparation for a tax-cutting Budget next month. Although no new official forecast will be issued until Budget day, March 10, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's officials have deliberately made available parts of the Treasury's latest assessment on the economy before publication of output statistics for the final quarter of 1991, due on February 20.

The move is highly unusual, since ministers and Whitehall officials are normally muzzled in the months preceding the Budget to prevent government plans leaking out. The Treasury's willingness to disclose such a gloomy forecast will confirm the belief gaining ground among

Tory MPs that the government intends to make tax cuts in the Budget before a general election on April 9.

The MPs now expect the cuts to include at least 1p off the standard rate and an increase in thresholds. John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, have insisted that they will not put the Tory reputation for financial rectitude at risk in an election, but both are keen to continue the Conservative tradition of cutting taxes if there is economic justification.

Treasury officials said yesterday that there appeared to have been no recovery in the final quarter of last year. A flat final quarter would mean that the gross domestic product shrank by 2.5 per cent last year, the biggest fall in a calendar year since the Great Depression of the early 1930s.

Delayed recovery is also likely to more than halve the growth forecast for this year made by Mr Lamont. Although this would bring it more in line with City forecasts, a growing number of analysts fear that predictions of 1 per cent growth this year could be over-optimistic.

MPs believe that the figures emerging from the Treasury will allow them to argue that the economy has remained so flat that a significant fiscal stimulus is entirely in keeping with the government's past promises that taxes will be reduced only when it is prudent to do so. The gloomy figures are expected to help Mr Lamont justify a package of tax cuts worth between £2 billion and £4 billion.

Labour has called a Commons debate on the recession later this week. Gordon Brown, the trade spokesman, said last night that "the recession is longer, deeper and more damaging than ministers have ever conceded with their misleading forecasts and false predictions, making the government's disastrous recession mistakes and economic mismanagement the central battleground of the general election."

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi Inter-

national, said yesterday: "The new growth figures give more strength to the case for a generous, tax-cutting Budget." Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, estimates that Mr Lamont will be able to cut £4 billion in taxes without upsetting the financial markets, but the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that he will be limited to cuts of £2 billion.

As a result of the restraint British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism has imposed on interest rate policy, the Chancellor has been widely urged to ease fiscal policy to stimulate the economy. The disturbing outlook for growth will also make it difficult for Opposition and City critics to accuse the government of fiscal profligacy.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, speaking at Guildhall last night, reinforced the view that no bounce-back was imminent. He said the conditions were in place to underpin "gradual and sustained" recovery, but he cautioned against calls for dramatic measures to boost growth. He said, however, that he did not rule out "selective, well-designed measures".

With the indicators pointing, at best, to flat, or even falling, output in the closing quarter last year, and delayed recovery this year, the government appears to have switched tactics completely. Instead of trying to boost confidence about an imminent recovery, as ministers have done since last spring, the government is now issuing statements that compare more closely with the pessimistic readings of independent forecasters.

Mr Lamont indicated at the end of last year that the economy was weaker, and recovery slower, than he had anticipated when he made his autumn statement in November. He predicted then that the economy would decline by 2 per cent in real terms last year, before recovering to produce 2.25 per cent growth this year.

Governor's report, page 17

Ashdown wants 50p on price of petrol

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROBIN OAKLEY

PADDY Ashdown demanded an extra 50p on the price of a gallon of petrol to tackle pollution yesterday and threatened to provoke an immediate second general election if he is thwarted in a hung parliament.

As the bitter weekend scrap over Neil Kinnock's alleged Kremlin connections peters out in ritual mutual recrimination, there were noticeable attempts to lower the fevered election temperature. Downing Street said that the prime minister wanted the election fought on "policy, competence and judgment", and close colleagues said that he was very much against personal attacks.

Jack Cunningham, the

Labour campaign co-ordinator, wrote to Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, saying that there were no Labour plans, as reported, to "target" Mrs Norma Major. He added: "We would condemn any such behaviour immediately."

The Liberal Democrat campaign director, Des Wilson, called for an all-party summit to discuss how the sour nature of the present campaigning could be avoided and MPs were comparatively well behaved as the prime minister reported on the UN summit.

The Liberal Democrats continued on page 16, col 3

Snared by sugars, page 12



President Menem holding up a sheaf of files which record details of fleeing Nazis admitted to Argentina



Mengele, left, and Eichmann, two of the most notorious war criminals

British army double agent is sentenced to ten years

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH army agent who worked for three years as chief intelligence officer for the Loyalist Ulster Defence Association was yesterday sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

Brian Nelson, aged 44, of north Belfast, a former soldier in the Black Watch, had pleaded guilty to 20 terrorist offences including five conspiracies to murder.

Sentencing him at Belfast crown court, Lord Justice Kelly said Nelson had gone beyond what was required of him by his army handlers and involved himself with murder gangs. He handed down sentences totalling 61 years - all to run concurrently, including ten years each for the five conspiracies, three years each for 11 counts of possessing documents likely to be of use to terrorists, five years each for three counts of collecting information, and six years for possession of firearms.

Taking into account his two years on remand, Nelson can expect to serve no more than four years and eight months. Lord Justice Kelly said infiltration of criminal gangs by agents was recognised in most countries as a legitimate means of detecting criminal activity. But, he said, the law makes clear that agents must not commit criminal acts and expect immunity from prosecution.

The sentence was greeted

with derision by relatives of some of those killed by the UDA during the time that Nelson worked in its higher echelons.

Theresa Slane, widow of Gerard Slane, who was shot dead in September 1988, said she intended to sue the defence ministry for negligence. Nelson had originally been charged with Mr Slane's murder, together with that of Terrence McDaid, but these were dropped as part of an apparent plea bargaining.

Maura McDaid said she was outraged at the sentence. She said the activities of Brit-

ish intelligence was worse than that of the paramilitaries. "They paid Nelson £30,000 to murder innocent men," she said.

Last night Sinn Féin dismissed the sentence as part of a cover-up to protect British military intelligence. Seamus Mallon, for the SDLP, said the case demonstrated that members of the security forces were being dealt with differently before the courts.

The Nelson case has already led to a review of agent running in Northern Ireland involving army intelligence, the RUC, Special Branch and M15.

Labour scorns Clarke's grammar school hint

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of a return to grammar schools moved up the election agenda yesterday as Labour claimed that a new tier of schools would add to the confusion already causing a loss of public confidence in state education.

Labour spokesmen opened their offensive on education with an attack on the government's spate of initiatives on schools. The apparent enthusiasm of Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, for the

creation of more selective grant-maintained schools was claimed as the latest example of "neurotic hyperactivity" after years of complacency over state schools.

More than 60 per cent of parents in an NOP poll commissioned by Labour said that standards of education had declined since 1979.

Continued on page 16, col 5

Selection debate, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Wheel clamp 'foiled £130m Van Gogh theft'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN ALLEGED plot to steal Van Gogh paintings worth £130 million from the National Gallery in London degenerated into farce when the would-be raiders found their getaway car had been clamped, a court was told yesterday.

None of the trio had enough cash to pay for the removal of the offending constraint, so they jacked up the vehicle, which they had parked on double yellow lines in Soho Square, and tried to remove it themselves. That was when police spotted them.

The allegations emerged at Middlesex crown court yesterday when the three - Jason Wilkins, aged 21, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, Martin McCracken, aged 22, of Southorpe, Humberstone, and Philip Neasham, aged 22, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex - denied conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary and having firearms and

explosives, a Browning blank-firing self-loading pistol, a telescopic cash, a survival knife, a butterfly knife and two hand-grenades. They also denied conspiracy to relieve the gallery of a number of paintings.

Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, compared the situation to a farce in the style of the old Ealing comedy *The Ladykillers* or one of Peter Sellers' *Pink Panther* films. The plot to steal the paintings might well have succeeded, she said, despite the trio's incompetence, had it not been for their "ignorance or disregard for parking arrangements in central London".

At the time, in May 1991, security at the National Gallery had been undergoing an overhaul. It could not have been a better time for a raid, with no internal alarm system, no video cameras on duty in the entrance and only two wardens on duty in the Orange Street foyer.

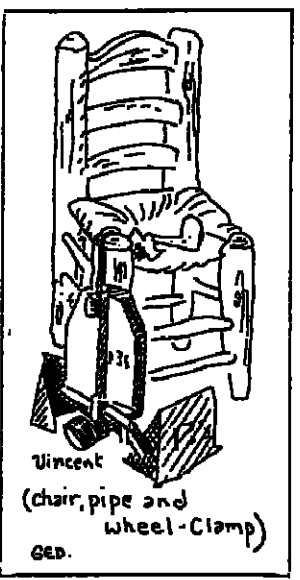
Miss Korner alleged that Mr Nea-

sham, said to be the "brains behind the scheme", had turned his mind to how to dispose of the paintings and allegedly "borrowed" a copy of *Who's Who* from a Sussex library and listed known art collectors. He and Mr McCracken had even taken the trouble to attend a number of art classes.

When police came across the clamped car just before 10pm, among the incriminating evidence they found, including a sledgehammer and crowbar, was a plan of the gallery, with a mark by the room containing the Van Goghs and the initials "VG". Miss Korner said.

At Mr Neasham's home police found a cheque book with cheques written to Harrods for £33,000, to Lloyds Insurance for £2,000 and to Lamborghi for £60,000. "Neasham at the time was unemployed and the Crown say he was judging by those cheques, expecting to come into the money," she said.

The trial continues today.



Wheel clamp (chair, pipe and wheel-clamp) GED.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

TWO'S FREE



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LOVERLY



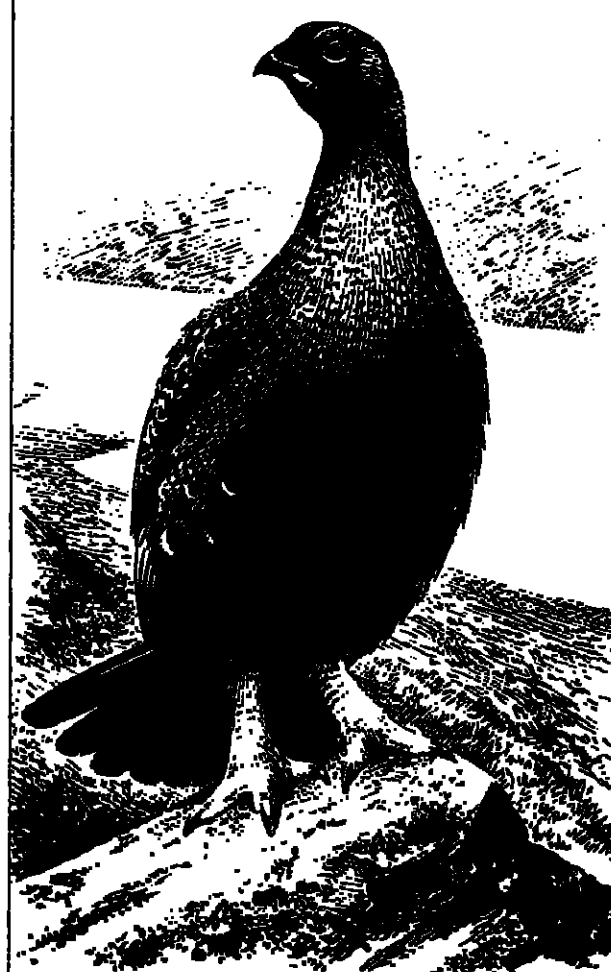
An upper-class Cockney? That, says David Robinson, is the American dream of Britain, encapsulated in My Fair Lady but with roots deep in the history of Hollywood Life & Times section, page 1

CHIP BORED?



Zapl has replaced Clack as the sound of the playground. Do electronic toys make for brighter children? Life & Times section, page 5

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Heinz chief earns \$75m

Tony O'Reilly, the Irish businessman and former rugby international named as a possible buyer of Mirror Group Newspapers, earned \$75 million last year as president of Heinz, making him America's best-paid executive.

Mr O'Reilly's pay and bonuses rose 12 per cent to \$3.6 million but he cashed in share options granted when prices were much lower to give him \$71.5 million profit. Page 17

Intern plea

After the second murder in 24 hours of a civilian in Northern Ireland, Unionists called the government gutless and again demanded the reintroduction of internment. Page 2

Solvent deaths

A £1.4 million campaign to reduce solvent abuse was launched yesterday after it was disclosed that deaths from inhaling glue and aerosols had reached record levels. Page 3

Babic accuses

Milan Babic, the militant leader of the breakaway Serb enclaves of Croatia, claimed yesterday that he and his colleagues had been exposed to police methods and political torture to try to make them accept a UN peace plan. Page 9

Abuse claims

Autistic children were abused, forced and punished physically for making mistakes, an enquiry into allegations of ill-treatment at a special centre was told. Page 4

Kapil record

Kapil Dev, the Indian all-rounder, has become the second man in Test cricket to capture 400 wickets. Sir Richard Hadlee, who leads the field with 431 wickets, sent his congratulations. Pages 26, 28

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Plowright: wanted to keep independence

Staff fear for Granada standards after chief executive goes

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

GRANADA Television's staff said yesterday that the company's long tradition of sparing no expense to produce programmes such as *Brideshead Revisited* and *Jewel in the Crown* is threatened after the forced resignation of David Plowright, its executive chairman.

Senior programme executives said Mr Plowright's removal after a boardroom dispute had undermined their confidence in Granada's intention to honour its licence commitments to the Independent Television Commission.

Mr Plowright, a senior figure in British broadcasting who has worked at Granada for 34 years, was ousted at the instigation of Gerry Robinson, the new chief executive of Granada Group, the parent company. Mr Robinson, who has no broadcasting experience, is thought to favour a more commercial approach.

There is a fundamental disagreement between myself and the board of Granada Group about how to manage the change into the new broadcasting environment of the next decade," said Mr Plowright, aged 61, whose resignation becomes effective on February 29. He was told in front of other executives at a lunch last Monday that he would have to leave his £145,000 a year job.

Staff expressed their anger, with all 1,000 signing a letter of protest. Six key executives, including David Liddiment, head of entertainment, Ray Fitzwalter, head of current affairs, and Sally Head, head of drama, said they were deeply dismayed. Mr Robinson, a

former Grand Metropolitan and Coca Cola executive, said he regretted not being able to reach a working agreement with Mr Plowright. He denied that programme quality would suffer. "We want to continue to produce quality television."

Mr Robinson is understood to want to squeeze more profits out of Granada, cutting programme budgets and introducing other efficiencies. He also wants the parent company to take a much larger role in the day-to-day running of its subsidiary. Mr

Plowright, a former *World in Action* editor and the man responsible for the production of *Brideshead* and the award-winning *King Lear*, wished to retain the subsidiary's editorial and financial independence. Mr Plowright, who masterminded Granada's £9 million bid to retain its franchise against a rival prepared to pay three times as much, had agreed to 60 redundancies and a year's pay freeze last week.

George Russell, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, said: "I am reassured that Granada Group's commitment to the Granada Television licence application and to the terms of the licence is reaffirmed."

Andrew Quinn, who replaces Mr Plowright as Granada TV's new chief executive, said: "Granada programme makers currently dominate the ITV schedule in quality and popularity and I intend to maintain the circumstances in which they can continue to do so." Yesterday the six programme executives expressed their confidence in Mr Quinn.

Killing brings new call for internment

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONISTS repeated their call for the government to bring back internment and accused it of a "gutless" approach yesterday, after another murder of a civilian in Northern Ireland — the second in less than 24 hours.

Ken Maginnis, security spokesman for the Ulster Unionist Party and the MP in whose Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency the latest killing took place, said the government must arrest leaders of terrorist groups.

"We really cannot understand the niceties of so called infringements of human rights that prevent the government from taking the god-fathers off the streets," Mr Maginnis said. "It's unbelievable that after 20 years we still have gutless government that can't do anything to take the higher echelons of the terrorist organisations out of our midst."

The latest victim, the 17th this year, was Gordon Hamill, a Protestant baker who was shot by Republican gunmen while delivering bread to a supermarket in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. Last night the IRA claimed responsibility.

According to police, Mr Hamill, who was married with five children, was followed into the store by two men, one of whom carried an automatic rifle. He was hit by about 30 shots in front of eight customers and died instantly. His death followed

that of Patrick Clarke, a Roman Catholic taxi driver on Sunday night. He was shot by Loyalist gunmen in front of his wife and youngest son at his north Belfast home.

Yesterday the Ulster Freedom Fighters, the military wing of the legal Ulster Defence Association, announced that it had killed him and gave a warning that anybody who supported the Republican movement through the ballot box or by any other means would be considered a legitimate target.

Richard Needham, economy minister at Stormont, said the paramilitaries wanted "to force people to the extremes and make it more difficult to get the two communities together".

If the present rate of killing continues, 194 people will have died by the end of this year compared with 94 in 1991. Police said that there was nothing particularly unusual about the death toll, which they put down to the ebb and flow of violence in the province, nor about the fact that all the victims so far this year were civilians. A number of attempts to kill members of the security forces had failed, a spokesman said.

A fire bomb was defused yesterday on an Underground train at Neasden, northwest London, after being spotted by a member of staff, a month after a similar device was discovered at the same depot.



Hilary Armstrong, Labour spokesman on education, Jack Straw and Jack Cunningham at the unveiling of the education poster

Grammar schools enter election battle

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools are a subject that will not go away for Conservative governments. Successive education ministers have found that as many of their supporters see selection at 11 as a panacea for the school system as once berated their predecessors

about the inequities of the system. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has been uncharacteristically ambivalent when pressed on the issue, and even now is leaving it to parents to take the initiative.

His weekend comments

will encourage those who have always seen opting out as the route back to selective schools. Mr Clarke said that he would have no objection to the re-emergence of grammar schools as long as there were not too many in each area.

With Labour committed to returning grant-maintained schools to their local authorities and abolishing selection in the 148 remaining grammar schools, the issue is bound to loom large in the key electoral battleground of education. Only the economy and health feature more prominently than education in voters' declared priorities, and any slip could be critical with the election so delicately poised.

Labour has called two press conferences on education in as many days, hoping to concentrate attention on public dissatisfaction with schools' performance. By raising the issue of grammar schools, Mr Clarke is shifting the debate, emphasising the Tories' commitment to diversity and reminding voters of Labour's record on education, but he is also taking a risk.

Selection at 11 is a double-edged sword for any politician. There may be nostalgia for schools of excellence where they have disappeared, but the process of selection inevitably leaves most parents disappointed where the system has survived.

A referendum of parents in the solidly Conservative borough of Redbridge, northeast London, on plans to increase the number of grammar schools produced a victory for a write-in campaign to abolish the two existing grammars. Solihull, in the West Midlands, scrapped plans for

a selective system after opposition from parents and teachers. One of the first grant-maintained schools, Stantonbury Campus, in Milton Keynes, opted out to avoid becoming a grammar school.

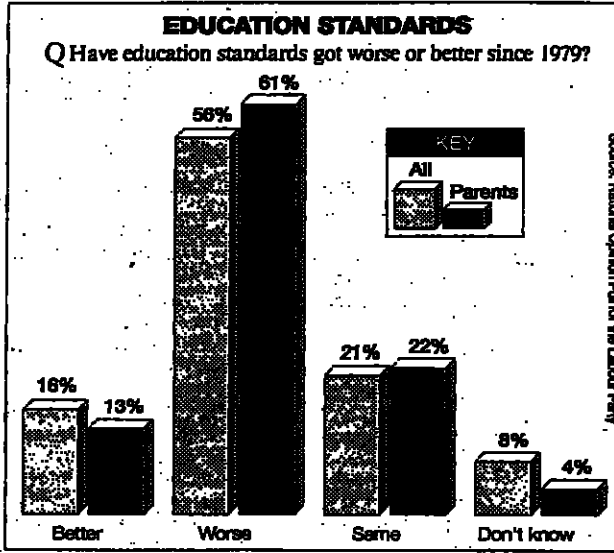
Although Labour piloted the spread of comprehensive schools in the 1960s, Conservative governments have now closed more grammar schools than their opponents. Of the 890 to close since 1970, 469 have disappeared under Conservative governments, 106 of them since 1979.

Parents' reaction to the 11 plus examination, which still determines entry to most English grammar schools, has been predominantly hostile ever since its introduction in the wake of the 1944 Education Act. The promise of a new tier of technical schools, echoed in Mr Clarke's recent statements, was never fulfilled.

Professor Sig Prais, who has advised Tory ministers from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said: "I raised my eyebrows at the political tactics behind supporting grammar schools. I am sorry that the high standards of the grammar schools have been whittled away, but their return surely is not the country's top priority."

For the moment, the demand for grammar schools may be more in the imagination of media pundits and political activists than among parents. Although Robert Balchin, the chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Trust, forecasts a flood of applications to opt out in the event of a Conservative election victory, up to 10 per cent of which may be for selective schools, there is no sign of such a trend as yet.

Labour offensive, page 1



V&A abandons plan for northern branch

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Victoria and Albert Museum is being forced to abandon plans for a northern branch that would house some of its Asian collections and be the centrepiece for a revival of Bradford city centre.

The £21 million scheme has fallen foul of the wrangle over how the government allocates regional grants from the EC, which is believed to have split the cabinet. The "V & A of the north" was to have been the keystone of a £67 million project to transform an industrial site into an inner-city complex including a new hotel, shops and offices.

An grant of £8 million is to be lost because of an interpretation of "additionality" by the environment department

whereby European Regional Development Fund grants are not seen as additional to money provided from public funds but as a replacement. Without the V & A's branch and its potential for drawing 500,000 tourists a year, the inner city complex plan is threatened with collapse.

The development fund grant was expected to help to establish the museum in the 12-acre South Mill of the Manningham Mills site. A ministerial ruling that the grant would have to be matched by a reduction in the local authority's own capital budget means that the scheme cannot go ahead because Bradford city council cannot afford to meet its part of the arrangement.

Rulings on at-risk children 'a lottery'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THREE out of four children referred to local authorities because of suspected abuse drop out of the system, and others are being wrongly registered as at risk because social workers do not agree on the definition of "abuse", according to a new study.

Decisions were left to the subjective judgments of social workers, which varied widely, the study found, and were not governed by policy guidelines. "In some areas, if a child was left unattended, even for a short period, that would be regarded as reason to place them on the abuse register," Henri Giller, director of Social Information Systems, which did the survey, said. "But up the road,

another department would say that if the mother pops out to the shops occasionally, that is not a cause for worry."

Cases of suspected abuse that were not registered were compared with those that were registered in four social services departments in Wales, and findings were confirmed by testing in 12 areas in England. "We looked at the level of injury, the assessment of risk and the state of the parental relationship and found there was no difference, other than in the extreme cases," Dr Giller said.

A smack on the legs was seen as abuse in some areas and acceptable chastisement in others, creating "a lottery".

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G30/PI T3 AD/X

Enquiry told of alleged force-feeding

Staff abused autistic children, nurse says

By RONALD FAUX

AUTISTIC children were abused, force-fed until they were sick and punished physically for making mistakes, an enquiry into allegations of ill-treatment at a special centre was told yesterday.

In July 1988 four members of staff at Scotforth House, Lancaster, complained to the education authority that pupils were being ill-treated. Further charges were made by the centre's parent-teacher association. As a result one teacher was suspended and resigned, an oral warning was given to another, and two nursery nurses were also suspended and later disciplined. Parents were dissatisfied with the outcome and called in the police. The teacher who resigned and the nurses were charged with a large number of criminal offences.

Susan Vipond, aged 44, worked as a nursery nurse at the centre for two years until August 1978. She said that during the 15 minutes allowed for lunch, the children were force-fed. "So much was pushed into their mouths they could not swallow and what they could not eat they vomited up," she said. Then they were "made to eat their vomit". She said that she had been told that it was perfectly

all right to have children eat regurgitated food as it was still fresh.

One member of staff was very violent towards the children, she said. One boy who could not cope with the food in his mouth was told: "If you eat like a pig, you will be treated like a pig." His food was tipped onto the carpet.

One member of staff had offered to explain to Mrs Vipond how to hurt a boy without marking him. "I said, 'I don't want to know that, thank you very much'." She was told that children were "bounced" as a punishment for not getting things right. After one incident a child had been reduced to a dithering wreck.

Caroline Swift, for the enquiry, asked if Mrs Vipond remembered an incident in which a little girl was shouted at for painting a picture that was not liked by a teacher and a nursery nurse. Mrs Vipond said: "She was told she was stupid. Very abusive language was used which I heard because my classroom was on the other side of the corridor and the door to the teacher's classroom was open."

She said that the treatment of children in the autistic unit

depended on whether the child's parents were liked. If they were, their child received lenient treatment. One particular little girl was not liked because her parents were intelligent and asked too many questions. The children were generally spoken to harshly and no allowances were made for mistakes.

Janet Smith, QC, enquiry chairman, ordered that the identity of past and present staff at Scotforth House should not be published at this stage of the enquiry if evidence was to be heard against them. The enquiry was opened by Lancashire county council after the conviction of the three former staff members for cruelty and assault against children.

Miss Swift told the enquiry that a new teacher was now in charge. Scotforth House, which served as an assessment centre and a centre for autistic children, was the only one of its kind in Lancashire and by 1987 the number of children there had risen to 30. It was now known the centre had never been registered with the education department and its precise legal status was unclear. The enquiry continues today.



Pulling through: Police Sergeant Alan Jones, sitting in a wheelchair beside his wife Katie yesterday, five weeks after being shot on duty. He was attacked in Paddington, west London, after stopping a car. One of the occu-

pants drew a handgun and opened fire, hitting him in the groin. "It all happened incredibly fast. I saw the gun, heard the bang and saw the flash," he said. "I just thought 'Oh, my God'. I was acutely aware that I

was losing an awful lot of blood. It was just spurting and I could tell it was the artery." He was taken by helicopter ambulance to the Royal London Hospital where doctors treating him used 48 pints of blood.

Pensioner in bungled bank raid goes free

A woman aged 60 who tried to hold up a bank with a toy gun after her business failed has been given a two-year suspended prison sentence.

Pamela Fitchew, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, was convicted of attempted armed robbery in November. Sentencing her at Aylesbury crown court yesterday, Judge John Slack criticised her for "pig-headedness" continuing to deny guilt, but said she had acted out of character, under extreme financial pressure.

Philip Gainsford, for Fitchew, said she had bungled the raid, displaying astonishing incompetence. She walked out of the Midland Bank in Lane End, Buckinghamshire, when a cashier told her there was no money.

Driver fined

A lorry driver admitted making a trip from Milan in which he was on the road for ten consecutive days. Thomas Kellet, aged 40, of Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, was fined £450 by magistrates at Llandudno, Gwynedd.

MP honoured

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, Tory MP for Hampstead and Highgate, was elected president of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

Bodies found

Rescuers found the bodies of two men and the wreckage of their light aircraft in the Wicklow mountains, in the Irish Republic. The plane went missing on Sunday.

Ghost hunt

Six people raised £1,000 for a children's ward at Nottingham City Hospital by spending the night at Bottesford airfield, near the city, which is said to be haunted by the ghost of a second world war airman.

Theft stunt

A thief drove his car along the pavement in Gravesend, Kent, to snatch the handbag of a woman pedestrian.

Keays libel jury sees love letters and photos 'worth a fortune'

LOVE letters from Cecil Parkinson to his mistress Sara Keays during their 11-year affair were handed to a High Court libel jury yesterday as evidence that she was no "kiss-and-tell bimbo".

The letters, which have never been made public and were not read out in court, were produced in support of Miss Keays's damages claim over a magazine article naming her among women who sold "pillow talk" stories about their sex lives.

She had never sought to

make money out of her relationship with Mr Parkinson, the only man she had ever loved, Mr John Preville, QC, her counsel, said. When the story of their affair broke in 1983, she was flooded with requests for interviews, including an offer of £250,000 from the *News of the World*. She was not interested.

Miss Keays, aged 44, of Marksbury, Avon, whose affair with Mr Parkinson ended in scandal in 1983, is suing *New Woman* magazine over an article that she claims

accused her of writing a kiss-and-tell book to make money and to cause maximum embarrassment to her former lover.

Mr Preville told Mr Justice Drake and the jury that Miss Keays had written the book, *A Question of Judgment*, to put the record straight in the face of newspaper stories trivialising the affair as a mere dalliance. She was not a gold-digger who had set out to embarrass Mr Parkinson.

The couple's daughter Flora, now aged eight, was conceived at a time when Miss Keays believed her lover intended to marry her. "This was the one love affair of her life and it spanned 11 years," Mr Preville said. In writing her book, she was protecting not just her own reputation, but that of her daughter.

The letters written by Mr Parkinson, then trade and industry secretary, were not in any way salacious. "They are no different from those written by any man in love," The jurors were also shown an album of private photo-

graphs of Miss Keays and Mr Parkinson together. Mr Preville said that the album included pictures of them together in Brussels and could have caused great embarrassment. Miss Keays, the MP's secretary and personal assistant, could have made a fortune out of selling them.

If she was the kind of woman depicted in the article, and had wanted to cause maximum embarrassment to Mr Parkinson, she could have disclosed during the 1983 election how he had

pressured her to have an abortion. "That would have made her a fortune and probably also been extremely damaging to the Tory party. She didn't do that. She is not that sort of person. She is not remotely like the other women in the article."

Miss Keays is suing over an article, titled "Laughing all the way to the bank", in the October 1989 edition of *New Woman*, which claimed to be an expose of the kiss and tell industry. Mr Preville said the article detailed how Fiona

Wright, one-time lover of Sir Ralph Halpern, the former Burton chief, Pamela Bordes, and Vicki Hodge, the former model, had all earned money by publishing revelations about their sex lives.

Murdoch Magazines (UK) and Miss Frankie McGowan, the former editor, deny libel. They say that the words complained of did not bear the meaning alleged.

The case, which includes a claim for aggravated damages, is expected to last three weeks. It continues today.

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Third World pays more to Britain than it receives

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN received more money from the Third World in 1990 than it paid out, the first time such a situation has occurred.

The charity Christian Aid says in its annual report on government aid, published today, that debt repayments to the UK in 1990 were £2.4 billion more than the Third World received from government, bank and other private sources. In 1980 Britain gave the Third World £5.3 billion more than it received. The total amount paid to the Third World is not disclosed because of the confidentiality of bank lending, Christian Aid said.

For the fourth year running, British banks recovered more from developing countries in debt repayments than they lent, at a time when UK direct foreign investment was at its lowest in four years. Jessica Woodroffe, the report's author, says: "We are taking more from people in the poor-

est countries than we are giving. The vast amount of debt repayments diminishes the value of aid we give."

Christian Aid, which bases its figures on British Aid Statistics 1986-1990, published last year by the Overseas Development Administration, says Britain has a better record than most countries of cancelling the debts owed to it by the poorest countries.

In 1990, the last year for which figures are available, the government spent more than £1.7 billion on overseas development, 0.8 per cent of total public expenditure. This included £1.49 billion in aid to developing countries — 0.27 per cent of gross national product (GNP), compared to a UN target set in 1970 of 0.7 per cent. Britain gives just under £26 per person in aid and has fallen from tenth to fourteenth in the league table of donors.

Although aid from voluntary organisations rose by 23

per cent to £184 million in 1990, higher in real terms than the 1985 peak year of "Band Aid", debt repayments were about £6.1 billion, more than new loans. Debt repayments exceeded voluntary grants, export credits and direct investment by £4.3 billion, more than twice the level of government aid.

In the current financial year, the government has maintained the sixth largest aid programme in the world at £1.8 billion.

Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, said recently that the aid programme had grown by 10 per cent in real terms since 1987-8 and was planned to continue to do so. She said a "significant part" of the negative financial flow in 1990 was accounted for by write-offs by banks. It was a paradox that every time a Third World debt was written off, the figures looked worse. "Sometimes you can't win."



Double time: Glen Collins, a violin maker, working on a replica of a 1742 instrument for Sir Yehudi Menuhin, at Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire

Citizen's charter schemes 'must set sights high'

BY JAMIE DETTMER

COMPENSATION schemes for consumers as envisaged in the citizen's charter are unlikely to transform public services overnight, though they could make a useful contribution to raising standards, according to a report published today by the Consumers' Association.

Whether public utilities use compensation schemes as an incentive to improve services will depend on the scope of the schemes and how high minimum guaranteed standards are set. According to the report, published in the *Consumer Policy Review*, too many existing public com-

pensation schemes fail to set high minimum standards and do not cover a sufficiently wide range of services.

Schemes run by BT, the Department of Social Security and four local authorities suffer because they have set their standards too low, according to the author of the study, Sue Bloomfield, a researcher at the Association for Consumer Research. In another example, Newcastle upon Tyne city council's housing repair scheme could leave tenants with a burst water pipe for six days before compensation is forthcoming. A water scheme could also leave customers without a supply for 72 hours.

BT's scheme is criticised for being severely limited in scope. BT will pay compensation only for failure to install a phone on an agreed date and failure to repair a faulty line within two working days. The scheme does not cover mistakes made in billing customers, which is the most common source of complaints.

Some schemes adopt exclusion causes. Chester city council's refuse collection scheme excludes compensation for tardy collections from bins in blocks of flats.

The report also raises the question of who pays for compensation schemes. "Unless compensation schemes themselves lead to efficiency gains, the expense for providing them may impose an extra burden on customers, community charge payers or taxpayers," it says.

To guard against the charter-inspired schemes becoming little more than public relation gimmicks, the report recommends the importance of customers' views being taken into account in the setting of minimum standards.

"It is essential that the standard and compensation-setting process starts with the customer's needs, not the producer's views. Public sector organisations have in the past had a reputation for measuring performance by their own standards rather than through the eye of the public."

The Consumer Policy Review: Public Utilities (Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 4DF; £25 on subscription)

Woodland bonus for farmers

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

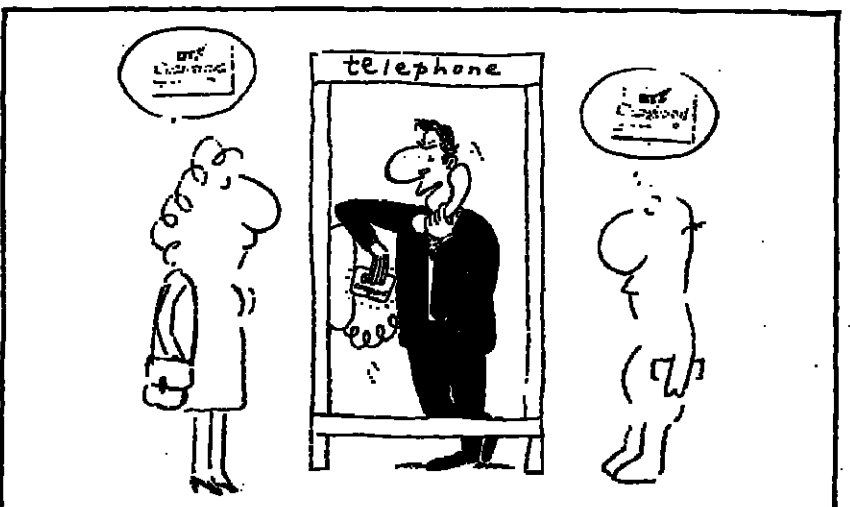
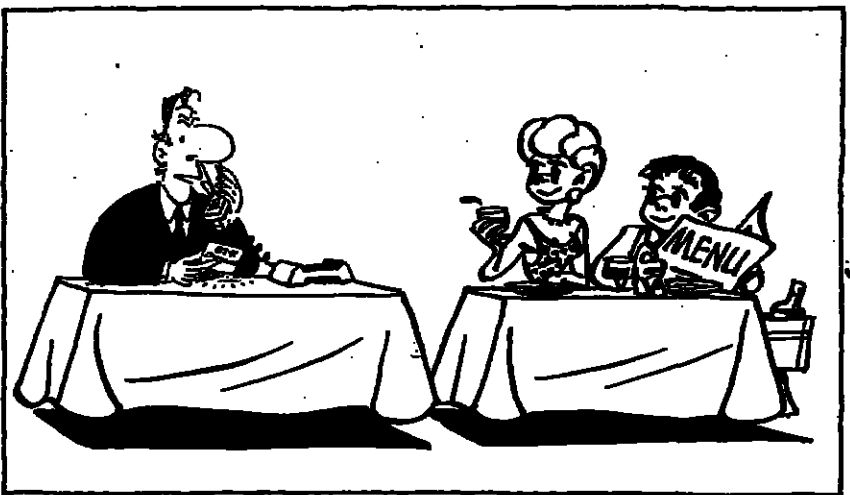
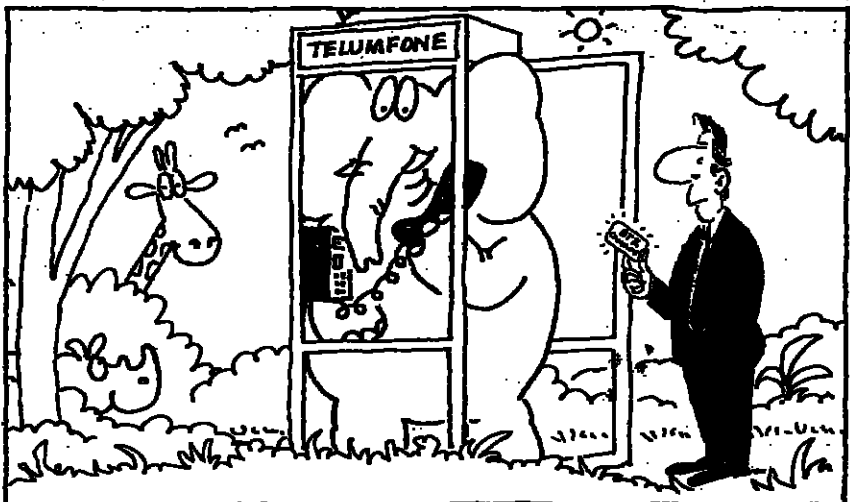
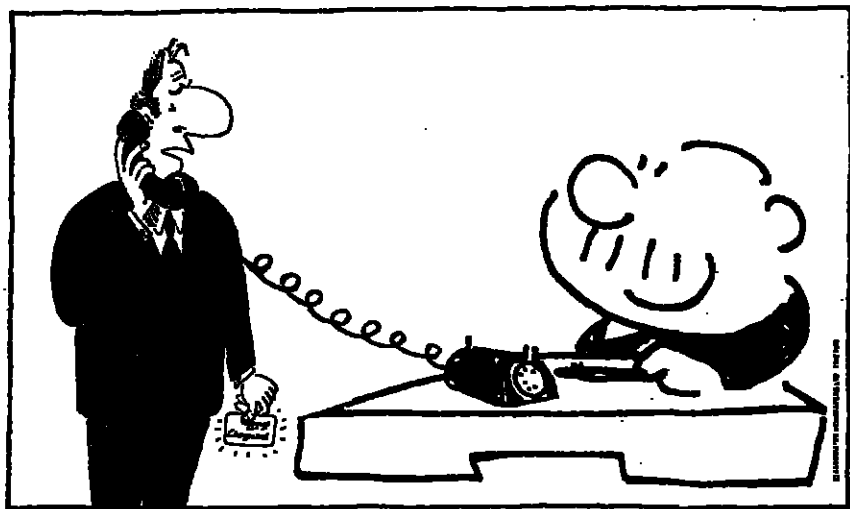
FARMERS are to be offered new financial incentives to convert previously protected agricultural land to woodland.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, says the aim is to improve the appearance of the farmed landscape and to provide a productive alternative to growing food, now in surplus throughout the European Community.

Forestry and woodland cover no more than 10 per cent of Britain, less than half the EC average. For most of the past four decades, government policy dictated that forestry should not occupy good agricultural land. That policy changed in 1988 with the launch of the farm woodland scheme, but the response has been less than the government had hoped for.

The new scheme offers farmers bigger grants to plant woods and higher annual payments for managing them. The payments would last up to 15 years, depending on the species planted.

Supplements of £240 an acre will be paid for planting broad-leaved trees, on top of the payments of £990-£530 an acre (depending on the area), already available.



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Ramblers push for new 'right to roam'

Ramblers are demanding that the next government unlocks the gates to Britain's open spaces, setting the scene for a confrontation with "feudal" landowners, John Young reports

A PUBLIC right of access to all Britain's woodlands, coastlines and river banks, with limited exceptions, is called for in a manifesto published yesterday by the Ramblers Association.

The document also suggests that Britain should follow the lead of other European countries by establishing legal access on foot to mountains, moors, heaths and other open country, subject to reasonable restrictions for the protection of wildlife and other interests.

The association makes it clear that it wants to see an end to the idea, accepted for generations, that large areas of countryside should be the private prerogative of landowners empowered to exclude "trespassers". Instead, there should be a public "right to roam".

According to Chris Hall, the association's president, much of "beautiful Britain" is still "forbidden Britain". He said yesterday: "In my home county of Oxfordshire, for example, feudal-minded landowners still fight tenaciously to prevent the public having access to the woodlands and open spaces on their estates. If our manifesto is implemented, these forbidden countryside will be open for all to enjoy peacefully on foot."

The document has been sent to the leaders of the main political parties with a request that they endorse it and promise to implement it if they are successful at the forthcoming general election.

The Country Landowners Association said yesterday that it was not in favour of a general right to roam. It felt strongly that arrangements for public access were best provided by voluntary management agreements.

Mr Hall acknowledged that there might be practi-

cultural difficulties in ensuring access to land along the coast and river banks to which the public had a legal right. But the government had powers under present legislation to enforce much of what was called for in the manifesto, and he did not foresee any need for major changes in the laws governing property rights.

The manifesto also demands that whatever government is in power should ensure that, by the end of the decade, all footpaths and other public rights of way are cleared of obstructions, properly maintained, recorded accurately on legally binding maps, and adequately signposted and waymarked.

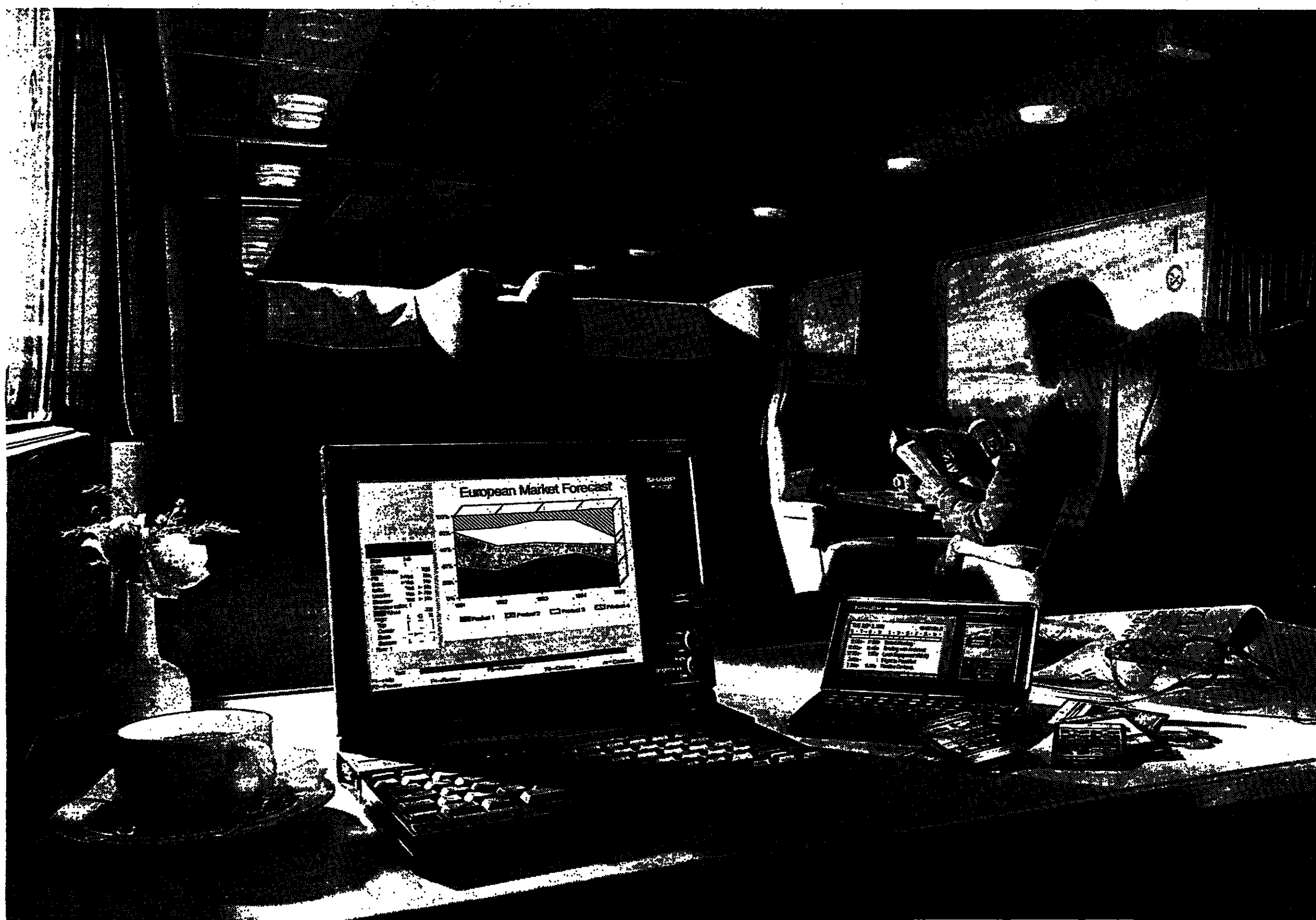
The Ordnance Survey should be required to show on their popular maps all land to which the public has legal right of access. Recommendations of the Common Land Forum in 1986 that there should be access to all common land in England and Wales, which was blocked after lobbying by moorland owners — should be implemented immediately.

David Grosz, chairman of the association's Scottish council, said yesterday that a legal right of access was needed in Scotland to stop the intimidation of walkers by land managers. Massive afforestation of the uplands was damaging wildlife, scenery and rivers.

Ninety per cent of the Scottish public thought that national parks were needed, he said. But at next week's World National Parks Congress in Venezuela the British government would again be forced to explain why private landowning interests were allowed to override public opinion.

Letters, page 13

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Major insists on secrecy over warheads

Trident kept under wraps

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE prime minister refused Opposition pressure yesterday to tell MPs how many warheads would be fitted to the Trident submarine missiles. Later, Downing Street confirmed that the figure would never be made public, on the grounds that uncertainty was part of the deterrent.

Whitehall sources refused to give details of the warheads or to discuss where they are targeted. Tory MPs believe that government reticence on the subject is in part a deliberate attempt to hold up any inclusion of British and French nuclear deterrents in future arms reduction talks. So long as the number remains obscure, negotiators would not know where Britain started from.

Pressed by Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown yesterday when he reported to the Commons on his talks with Boris Yeltsin and on the UN

Security Council meeting which he chaired in New York on Friday, Mr Major said the government had never indicated how many of the maximum possible 512 warheads would be fitted and that it would not be in the UK's interests to do so.

He added that President Yeltsin had accepted that Trident was "a minimum deterrent and that the focus of arms control negotiations should be on the arsenal of the two superpowers". Mr Yeltsin had "explicitly accepted the disproportion" between Britain's nuclear deterrent and that available to Russia even after Russia had made the cutbacks now pledged.

Mr Major also refused Opposition calls for Britain to sign up to a test ban treaty. "For as long as it is necessary for us to have nuclear weapons, we require the ability to test, and we propose to keep

the ability to test. For Opposition MPs to suggest that we should have nuclear weapons and not have the ability to test shows how little they understand the responsibility that lies with a nuclear power."

The exchanges on the UN meeting were remarkable for the comparative lack of electrification. Both sides appeared somewhat abashed by recent excesses and there were signs that Tory and Labour whips had made efforts to contain their hotheads.

Mr Major was, however, regularly pressed on why Britain was 28 million behind on its UN subscriptions and why British contributions to UN agencies were 38 per cent down on 1979.

The prime minister said that there would be a financial cost to helping Russia in its struggle to set up a successful market economy, but added: "The cost of failure and a return to dictatorship and the

Cold War would be infinitely higher."

"It is essential that Russia joins the IMF at the earliest opportunity and I believe a (currency) stabilisation fund may need to follow if Russia is to have a prospect of establishing a successful market economy," Mr Major said.

When Mr Kinnock said that Mr Major had not agreed to such a fund when Labour had suggested it last summer, Mr Major said that things had been changed by President Yeltsin's brave step of introducing price liberalisation. Officials confirmed later that America was still reluctant to support a stabilisation fund although it had now come round to early Russian membership of the IMF, as sought by Mr Major.

The prime minister was also pressed on the prospect of Britain losing its seat as one of the five permanent members of the security council to bigger contributors to UN funds such as Germany and Japan. He insisted: "Security council reform is neither necessary nor desirable."

The Labour left-winger Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) accused the government of "scabbing" on its UN contributions, saying: "It is ironic when Britain is holding the chair at the UN... that at that very time Britain is not up to date with its sub."

Tara Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, asked the prime minister if he would rule out UN military action against Libya. He replied tersely: "No."

Left blamed for education failings

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke blamed a "guilt-ridden and feeble" element in the upper ranks of British education last night for the damage done to schools over the past 20 years.

Receiving the "radical of the year" award from the Radical Society, a free-market grouping, the education secretary, a self-confessed "wet", said that Tories of all persuasions had been brought together in opposi-

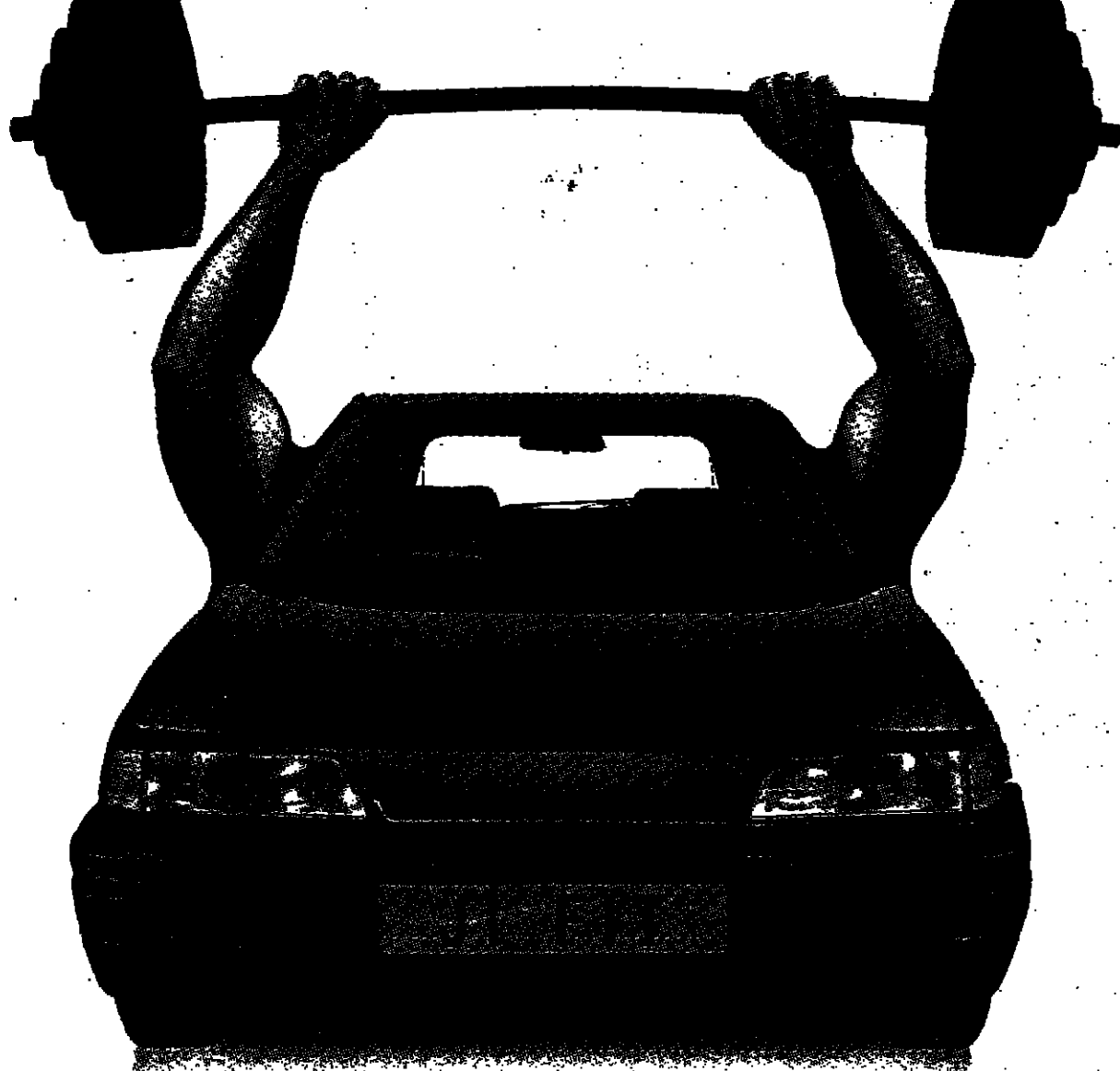
tion to the "banal left-wing ideologies of the educational establishment".

All Conservatives were radicals over education because they believed that drastic change was needed to restore commonsense and higher standards to schools and colleges, he said. They were united by a sense of shock at the damage done to education and society in the name of 1960s egalitarianism. They

found it ridiculous that senior figures should believe "standard English is a weapon in the class war used to impose bourgeois values on the working classes".

The education secretary also hinted at his growing enthusiasm for a revival of grammar schools by adding that the Tories were fighting against those who believed it was elitist to allow the able to achieve academic excellence.

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SNP catches the tide of independence

BY KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party yesterday launched a campaign to close the gap between the rising number of people calling for independence and those voting for the party.

With half of Scotland apparently in favour of a complete break from the 300-year-old union, party leaders are faced with translating the burgeoning popularity of independence into votes for the SNP whose standing, according to latest polls, is around the 26 per cent mark.

Labour's favoured option of a devolved assembly within the union has taken a knock in the last few weeks with its popularity falling from almost 50 per cent last year to 27 per cent. Dwindling support for devolution has worried the Labour leadership in Scotland and George Galloway, the Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, admitted that the party had been caught "half asleep".

A poster unveiled on a Glasgow street corner yesterday was the first of 30 similar posters that will be displayed on prominent sites throughout Scotland. Its message, a play on a successful lager advertisement, read: "They've Got Yours, Let's Make Scotland's Wealth Work For Scotland".

The party has published a newspaper, aiming to distribute 250,000 copies before the election is called. Last night a party political broadcast was televised putting forward the economic arguments for independence, and Sean Connery, the actor, will extol the virtues of independence on a telephone "hotline".

Launching the campaign in Glasgow, Jim Sillars, the SNP deputy leader, spoke of "that great useless lump", a reference to the present political supremacy of London. The union's failure and its punitive effects on Scots were the very reasons why people were moving to support independence in Europe, the SNP's main policy plank. "The union disables and destabilises Scotland," Mr Sillars said.

Alex Salmond, the SNP

leader, said his party was already winning the economic argument for independence and it was now launching its "economic offensive" to achieve victory in Scotland at the general election. It will be a hard fight: the SNP has only five parliamentary seats against Labour's 48 and the Conservatives' nine. The Liberal Democrats hold ten.

Mr Salmond said he and his fellow Scots were fed up with being insulted by claims that Scots were "subsidy junkies". "During the 1980s £100 billion of Scottish oil revenues, £20,000 for every Scot, drained south to Westminster. Another £40 billion to £50 billion are forecast for the 1990s. With independence we will be able to use that wealth to rebuild our infrastructure and revitalise our economy," Mr Salmond said.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said that under a Labour government Scotland would suffer a higher tax burden than anywhere else in Britain. He told businessmen in Glasgow yesterday that Labour would have to pledge not to give a Scottish parliament corporation tax-raising powers, never to use a Scottish parliament to raise the level of income tax higher than elsewhere in the UK, and not to abolish capping of council spending.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish affairs spokesman, condemned the nationalist campaign as a return to the selfish politics of the 1970s. "There are no shortcuts to a modern Scotland. Independence by any name is still separatism. In this particular divorce we would be the losers. Over the next few weeks we will demonstrate why balking at Britain is not a price worth paying and what the costs of separatism would be," he said.

Mr Dewar said the nationalists' message was primitive and unappealing. "The economics are make-believe, from a house style which demands that every half truth becomes a fact. The truth is that the nationalists' figures don't add up," he said.

Disabled rights bill given second chance

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

LORD Rix, the chairman of Mencap, is to attempt to revive parliamentary moves to improve the legal rights of disabled people. He is to reintroduce in the Lords a replica of a private member's bill talked out in the Commons on Friday amid angry scenes.

Alf Morris, Labour's spokesman on the disabled, said he had spoken to Lord Rix, who watched Friday's Commons debate from the gallery, and he had agreed to give the measure a second chance.

Mr Morris said yesterday: "I have asked Lord Rix if he will introduce and promote

my bill in the House of Lords and, to the delight of disabled people, he very much wants to do so."

The bill sets up a commission along the lines of those covering racial and sexual equality and gives disabled people recourse to the courts.

Nicholas Scott, the minister for disabled people, said that while he was "benevolently neutral" on the bill, he preferred to stick to the voluntary approach to improving the lot of the disabled. He conceded, however, that the next parliament might want to consider whether legislation was necessary.

Peers brush up on plumbing

BY JOHN WINDER

A FEAR that the bureaucratic might of the European Community was about to cast its shadow over the nation's lavatories led the House of Lords yesterday into a searching examination of the law on flushing.

Earl Howe, for the government, instructed their lordships in the intricacies of domestic plumbing, but he declined an invitation by Lady Phillips that he should personally inspect the facilities reserved exclusively to the ladies of Westminster which, according to Lady Phillips, would not meet any efficiency test. He promised to pass on her complaint to the appropriate person.

The question arose when Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) suggested that some of Britain's handsome and historic loos might be threatened by future EC regulations.

He asked how much it would cost to give effect to the regulation proposed for January 1, 1993, prescribing a maximum flushing capacity of 1.6 gallons.

Earl Howe replied that he was not aware of EC legislation of the kind described, but United Kingdom water by-laws already included a requirement for single-flush

cisterns in domestic properties to deliver no more than 7.5 litres—about 1.6 gallons—which on January 1, 1993 would be extended to any WC cistern installed in any property, with only limited exceptions.

"However, any existing WC cisterns lawfully installed before the by-laws or regulations came into force can continue in use," Earl Howe said that no European Community regulation on the subject existed or was in immediate prospect. The government would try to ensure that any which emerged would not conflict with present UK practice.

In later replies he admitted that if one installed a dual flush cistern, one could go up to a capacity of 9.5 litres: he appeared sympathetic to the advice of the Duke of Edinburgh that inserting a brick in the cistern would reduce water use, but said that could lead to two flushes being needed, and more water being used.

Lord Bruce welcomed his acceptance of "full responsibility for grave national matter" but hoped that "in pursuit of this sanitary experience the British government will not go further round the bend".

AROUND THE LOBBY

Defeat for government in Lords

The government was defeated by 17 votes in the House of Lords last night on an amendment to the Further and Higher Education bill, moved by the Bishop of Guildford, Dr Michael Adie.

The amendment will retain acts of worship in sixth form colleges after they are removed from local authority control. An associated amendment retaining the requirement for a weekly act of worship was carried without opposition.

Tax limit

Someone earning £490 a week would pay an extra £9 a week in national insurance contributions if the upper earnings limit were removed, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said at question time. He confirmed that more than three million people, including those getting overtime and bonus payments, would be affected by the removal of the upper limit.

Warning sign

There are about 300 prosecutions a year for driving offences involving eyesight, Lord Brabazon of Tara, transport minister, said during question time in the Lords. He rejected compulsory eye tests for drivers over 70.

Troops to stay

Coalition forces in southern Turkey, sent to protect the Kurds in Iraq, will remain there, at least until the end of June, the Earl of Caithness, a Foreign Office minister, said in the House of Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; prime minister. Motion on English revenue support grant. Lords (2.30): Local Government Finance Bill, committee, sixth and final day.

Narring leader agree to talk

Babic claims he was coerced

Serb rebel leader scorns UN deal

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

MILAN Babic, the militant leader of the breakaway Serb enclave in Croatia, claimed yesterday that he and his colleagues had been "exposed to police methods and political torture" to try to force them to accept the United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia.

Dr Babic said that in more than 40 hours of talks over the weekend with the remnants of the old Yugoslav federal presidency, the Yugoslav armed forces and leaders of the Serbian republic, "we were put under constant threat, pressure and blackmail... We were told 'you will accept whatever, if not, you know what we will do'."

Dr Babic spoke after a weekend of confusion which concluded on Sunday night with the federal presidency sending a message to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, saying that the last obstacle to the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Serb-held territories in Croatia had been removed. Yesterday, Branko Kostic, vice-president of Yugoslavia, said that that had been done by securing the signature of Mile Paspalj, president of the assembly of the self-proclaimed Serbian republic of Krajina. Mr Kostic claimed that that was binding because Dr Babic had left the meeting "and we realised that he had no intention of coming back". Dr Babic scoffed at claims that Mr Paspalj's signature



Babic says he suffered "political torture"

was binding for his government, saying that he learnt of the news on television and that Mr Paspalj had no authority to agree to the plan brokered by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy. He said that Mr Paspalj had gone to the presidency to deliver Krajina's terms for acceptance of the plan, which amount to a rejection in its present form, and "surprisingly" he had agreed to the existing plan. Dr Babic implied that some form of coercion had been involved. Dr Babic has consistently said that Krajina will accept the UN plan only if important modifications are made.

Yesterday Mr Kostic said that "after the Krajina assembly has been properly informed of the plan and its guarantees, it is inconceivable

that they will reject it. Babic's rejection is the war option. It is the spiteful rejection of one person which is putting in danger the interests of the people of Serbian Krajina... If they support Dr Babic, it would mean war... It means they would be opening for war on their own."

Borislav Jovic, the Serb delegate on the federal presidency, said that if Krajina would not accept the plan through "political measures", then "we will do it by state means". Dr Babic claims that a military takeover is impossible because the vast majority of troops in Krajina are local people who agree with him. However, the loyalty of senior officers whom he accused of still being under "the strong influence of communist ideology" has yet to be tested.

The talks between Serb militants from Croatia and other Serbs have been taking place officially, at least, under the aegis of the Yugoslav federal presidency, the body that used to be Yugoslavia's collective head of state, comprising a representative from each of the country's six republics plus two extra ones from Serbia's autonomous provinces, Kosovo and Vojvodina.

Serbia argues that Yugoslavia still exists and so, theoretically, this body still has power. Today, only Serbia's ally, Montenegro, and Serbia itself with its two provinces, which are autonomous in name only, send representatives. Serbia thus has total control over the rump body.

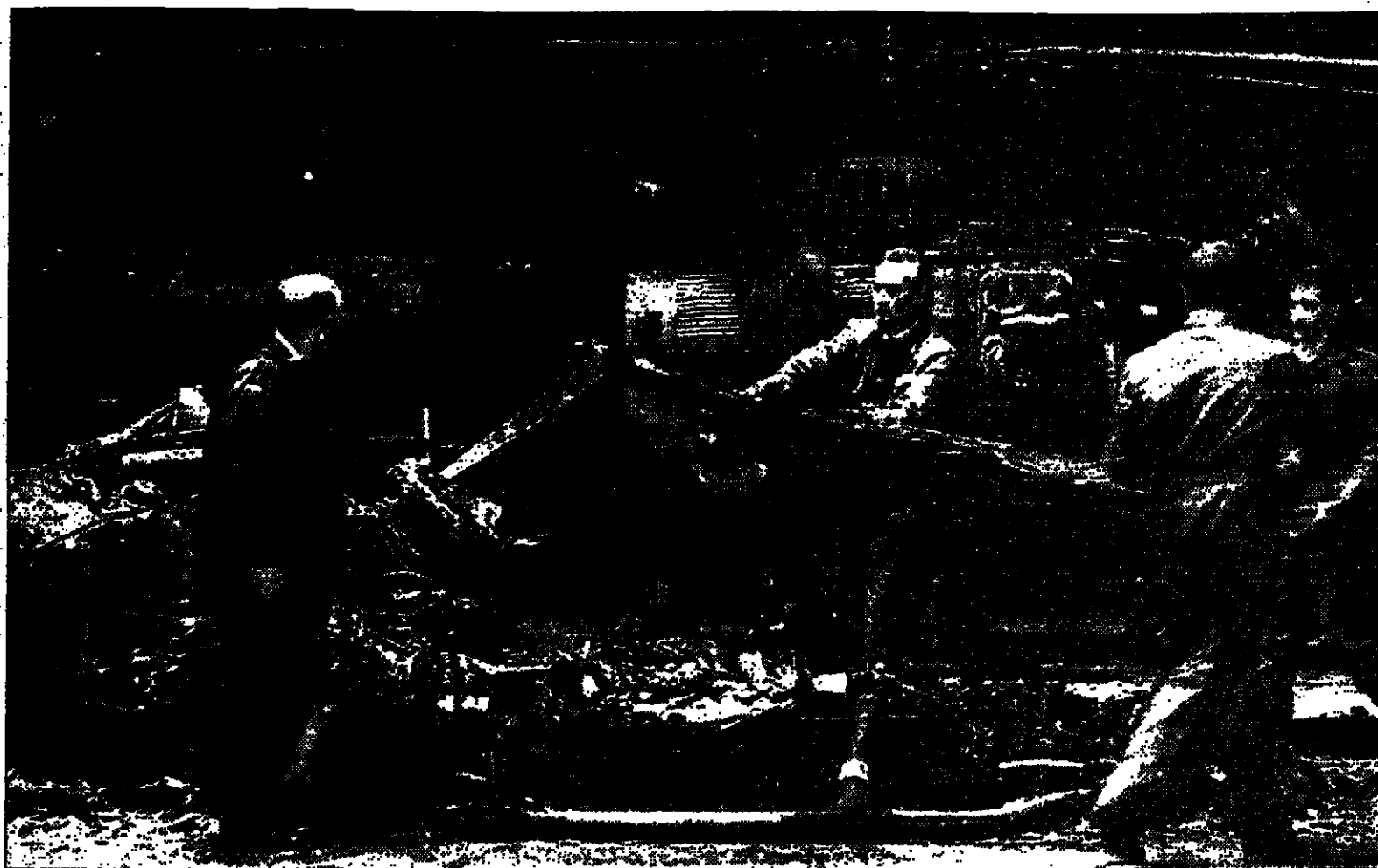
Montenegro has supported Serbia throughout the conflict but recently has tried to distance itself from Belgrade. Although ethnically and emotionally close to Serbs, a Montenegrin national consciousness has been reawakened and the small southern republic is to hold a referendum on whether to stay in a rump Yugoslavia. Pillaging by undisciplined Montenegrin troops around Dubrovnik was an international public relations disaster.

The self-proclaimed Serbian republic of Krajina comprises three Serb enclaves in Croatia which object to the UN plan and refuse to consider ever becoming part of Croatia again. Krajina proper lies in south-central Croatia, western Slavonia lies in the centre of the republic and eastern Slavonia is situated in the east.

Dr Babic is president of the "republic", but the centre and east come under the influence of their own leader, Goran Hadzic.

● Zagreb: Croat forces beat off two Yugoslav army attacks overnight and reported the incidents to the European Community ceasefire observers, Croatian radio said yesterday.

The radio added that the attacks, involving infantry backed by artillery and mortars, came on two fronts, at Zadar on the Adriatic coast and in eastern Croatia at Djakovo. No casualties were reported. (AFP)



Politics of fire: officials examining yesterday the burnt-out wreckage of a Dutch air force helicopter at Deelen airbase. The Netherlands, after activists of a group calling

itself "Freedom for all political prisoners in The Netherlands" set alight eight aircraft. Another helicopter was severely damaged. Mark Fuller writes from Amsterdam. The

twin-engine Boelkow helicopters were part of a fleet used for reconnaissance operations. In a statement the shadowy group said the attack was an "urgent protest

against the armaments plans of this society". Police said the new political group, clearly prepared to resort to violence, was not known to police

Rivals agree a Black Sea pact

BY ANDREW FINKEL

TURKEY played host to eight foreign ministers from the former communist states of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union at a meeting in Istanbul yesterday to initial a Black Sea economic co-operation pact. Armenia and Azerbaijan, currently in bitter dispute, were among the signatories as was Georgia which has held out against joining the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister, met his acting Armenian counterpart and repeated his country's offer to mediate in the conflict over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region which is also claimed by Azerbaijan.

Turkey first proposed the idea for a Black Sea co-operation zone in 1989, since when it has attracted the attention of newly formed states which do not actually border the Black Sea but are searching for some regional organisation. Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation are the other signatories. So far, Greece has not responded to invitations to join.

In his opening address, President Ozal of Turkey described the organisation, which will get its final approval this summer, as "designed perfectly to respond to the needs of our time". Turkey initially conceived of the zone as a vehicle which would work to promote free trade in the area rather than as an alternative common market. At one stage, negotiations for the Black Sea agreement were held up because some states did not possess customs barriers to lower.

"We also had great difficulty explaining that a data bank had nothing to do with finance," said the head of one Turkish business association, referring to one of the pact's proposed projects. The Turkish president's speech referred to simplifying bureaucratic procedure and the promotion of small-scale enterprises.

Many of the pact's original proponents believe, however, that a regional bank which will finance infrastructural and badly needed environmental reforms is crucial to the Black Sea zone's success. Turkey clearly sees the treaty organisation as further proof of its expanding influence in eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

The country is already contracted to modernise telecommunications in Azerbaijan and is now committed to building an international airport near the Turkish Black Sea town of Samsun.

● Istanbul: Gunmen killed a policeman and three policemen in Turkey yesterday, the state radio said. Five attackers shot dead two policemen and a woman colleague in a patrol car during the morning rush hour in Mersin, on the outskirts of Istanbul, then fled on foot. In the southern city of Adana, gunmen killed a policeman and seriously wounded another. The three gunmen escaped.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said that newspapers had received telephone calls claiming that guerrillas of Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) carried out the Adana attack. Dev-Sol, which is active mainly in Istanbul, said that it was responsible for killing at least 30 policemen and five generals in Turkey last year. (Reuters)

Rocard slips in revenger's knife

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

STRENUOUS efforts by the French government to limit political damage inflicted by the George Habash affair have run into further trouble in the shape of Michel Rocard, the former Socialist prime minister.

Intervening deftly in the controversy during a television appearance, M Rocard — who was sacked by M Mitterrand last May — made clear he believes that ministerial heads must roll after the "extremely bad decision" to allow the Palestinian guerrilla leader to enter France for medical treatment last week.

With the pot kept boiling by the announcement of the resignation yesterday of Georgina Dufico as president of the French Red Cross — she will step down on Friday — it is safe to assume that teeth were grinding in the Elysée palace over M Rocard's contribution to the post-mortem. Asserting that it was frankly "improbable" that the government had not been fully informed about the Habash visit, he concluded, slipping in the knife, that the

ministers directly involved must now "pay the price" already extracted from their own senior advisers.

The alacrity with which a senior Socialist official sought subsequently to dismiss M Rocard's observations as "the purely personal views of a former prime minister" reflects the party's extreme sensitivity after the torment of the past few days. With the French media still united in biting criticism of the handling of the affair from start to finish, the government remains badly off-balance, though it may yet battle through without having to sacrifice a minister or two.

Appearing before the National Assembly's foreign affairs commission yesterday, M Dumas ruled out resigning in face of opposition demands. "Do you imagine that I would respond to the first sound of alarm bells from that direction?" he asked.

Speaking to journalists later, M Dumas repeated his claim not to have learned about the presence of Mr Habash until his hospital bed. His anger at the conduct of Quai d'Orsay officials for "letting a terrorist into France without informing me" had been fully justified. There was no official word from the Philippe Marchand, the interior minister who many consider may eventually be served up as the cabinet-level scapegoat. The only blessing for the government came from Ibrahim Souss, the senior Palestinian delegate in France, who insisted there had been "no political intervention" in the process by which Mr Habash was hospitalised in Paris.



Dufico steps down as Red Cross chief

German steelmen win big pay rise

Bonn: German steel employers yesterday agreed to what they described as a "historically high" wage settlement to avoid a strike which could have crippled the industry (Ian Murray writes).

The compromise deal, which will add an extra 6.4 per cent to the wage bill, was worked out at a secret meeting early yesterday. Had the last-minute negotiation failed, the IG Metall union wages committee would have ordered a costly walk-out.

The deal is a worrying blow for the government as it struggles to bring down inflation.

Interest rates, page 17
Pay yardsstick, page 21

Scientists lure

Brussels: Germany suggested to its EC partners that part of the £35-million aid package to former Soviet states should be used to give nuclear weapons scientists jobs to persuade them not to take their top secret knowledge to the highest bidder in the Third World.

Border arrests

Budapest: Hungarian border guards have arrested 251 foreigners who attempted illegal entry into Hungary mainly from Romania, a spokesman said. They included a group of 57 Bangladeshis and Pakistanis who walked 31 miles to the border. (AFP)

Nazism feared

Vienna: A magazine poll found that 78 per cent of Austrians feel that neo-Nazism should be stamped out. Police arrested five neo-Nazis, including Gottfried Kuessel, an activist who said on television that Hitler was a "great man". (Reuters)

Traffic banned

Bologna: The centre of Bologna was closed to private and commercial traffic for nine hours and other Italian cities, including Milan, asked people to limit the use of private cars because of dangerously high pollution levels. (Reuters)

Jelly Germans

Bonn: A sweet firm known for making jelly bears has given Germans the chance to chew their politicians' heads off. Its new line of jelly politicians includes Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister. (Reuters)

Forgers' block

Brussels: The Belgian central bank intends to issue banknotes which defy photocopying machines used by forgers. The notes would carry a code which would be recognised and stop the machine. (AFP)

Juliet's pen

Verona: The city council of Verona, the setting of Shakespeare's famous love story, said it had recruited a special team to answer letters sent to Romeo's Juliet. About a dozen letters a week addressed to Juliet arrive in Verona from all over the world. (Reuters)

Warring leaders agree to talk

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

CIVILIAN casualties were reported to be increasing yesterday in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan as the two republics' foreign ministers agreed in principle to meet in Moscow.

A two-year-old child suffered a serious head wound, while at least three other people were injured and one person died during Sunday's bombardment of Stepanakert, capital of the Armenian-populated but bitterly disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Local officials said 10 rockets and 20 mortars crashed down on the city.

Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, who is in Istanbul for a conference of states bordering the Black Sea, said he had won agreement in principle from his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts that they should hold reconciliation talks in Moscow. Ayaz Mutalibov, the president of Azerbaijan, however, has come under intense pressure from local opposition to pursue the war with even greater vigour. Armenian leaders fear he has little room for manoeuvre in negotiating peace.

Bonn: Leonid Kravchuk, the president of Ukraine, arrived here last night seeking economic aid in return for promises to remove all nuclear weapons from his country by 1994 and to allow hundreds of thousands of ethnic Germans to settle on some of its best land (Ian Murray writes).

The German government is concerned about growing bad feeling between Mr Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, which might result in Ukraine leaving the Commonwealth of Independent States. In an interview with Der Spiegel this week, Mr Kravchuk, the only communist leader in the CIS, said: "I orientate my policies on myself and not on those of Yeltsin."

Rouble 'on the right track'

BY BRUCE CLARK

THE politician in charge of Russia's crash economic reform programme last night shrugged off a barrage of political attacks and called for an international fund worth up to \$6 billion to make the rouble fully convertible currency by this summer.

Yegor Gaidar, the deputy prime minister, the target of mounting public anger over rocketing prices of basic goods, insisted that the government was on the right economic course that needed no more than minor alteration. "I am not going to resign. To resign at this stage would be too much of a luxury," said Mr Gaidar, an economist who has acknowledged that President Yeltsin is likely sooner or later to sacrifice his cabinet on the altar of political expediency.

The only adjustments that might be necessary were extra social measures to protect the weak and some modification in a tough new value added tax, he said.

Mr Gaidar, who accompanied Mr Yeltsin on his recent trip to the West, said Britain and Canada had backed the idea of a rouble stabilisation fund, while the United States was gradually changing its hitherto cautious attitude to the idea.

He thought a political decision on establishing the fund could be taken by April and all technical obstacles cleared the following month. He said the rouble, whose market value has stabilised in recent weeks at around 110 per dollar after plunging for the past year, might eventually firm to around 30. Then it would be possible to set a single rate for individual transactions and foreign investors.

Full convertibility for the Russian currency, if successfully achieved, will be a historic move towards ending the self-isolation from the world economy proclaimed by the victorious Bolsheviks after 1917.

Operatic furore as tenors hit sour note

Rivalry has led to the revelation that opera singers will be miming the Olympic anthem, Barcelona. Edward Owen reports from Madrid

They're opening with Carreras or Marcel Marceau



the Canary island of La Gomera, has exploded his bombshell as a way of getting back at his rival, the popular Catalan tenor José Carreras. It seems that Señor Carreras, who is musical director of the opening ceremony, somehow failed to invite Señor Kraus to take part.

"José Carreras has declared war against me by not allowing me the possibility of participating at the inaugural act of the Olympic Games," said Señor Kraus. "It is unacceptable that public money is given to a professional singer who for his own interests decides who ought to be with him. The state, and not Carreras, should be responsible." He added that Señor Carreras, Señor Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti, the noted Italian tenor, had it in for him because he had dared to criticise their singing at the World Cup in Italy two years ago.

But Señor Kraus has had the last word by revealing that the world will not actually see highly paid professionals such as Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Montserrat Caballé singing live.

"It seems that each singer will perform for about two minutes. It is a type of medley, and during the actual inauguration they are going to mime to a playback." he said.

"This seems like fraud to me... Naturally, I would ignore José Carreras if I were ever asked to mount anything similar."

Yesterday a spokesman of Barcelona's fabulous opera house, the Teatre del Liceu, who said: "Señor Kraus does not like these type of things."

But Señor Kraus has had the last word by revealing that the world will not actually see highly paid professionals such as Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Montserrat Caballé singing live.

"It seems that each singer will perform for about two minutes. It is a type of medley, and during the actual inauguration they are going to mime to a playback." he said.

"This seems like fraud to me... Naturally, I would ignore José Carreras if I were ever asked to mount anything similar."

be in playback because of the tragic death of Freddie Mercury. But officials at the Liceu confirmed that other recordings are indeed in progress.

A company called Ovide Bassat Sport (OBS) in Barcelona is responsible for the opening and closing ceremonies of the games. A company spokeswoman said: "They're a secret, I can't tell you how we are going to use our recordings."

There was no comment from the Madrid-born Plácido Domingo, who in addition to taking part in the Barcelona preparations has been appointed operatic director of the Expo World Fair in Seville.

The Spanish opera world was yesterday abuzz with speculation over whether Alfredo Kraus would or would not be invited by Señor Domingo to sing — or even mime — at Expo during its six-month run.

Jordi Solé Tura, the Spanish minister of culture, who was only recently appointed, said the upheaval in the opera world was "far too sensitive" a matter for him to become entangled in.

Jewish voters could block Bush's return to White House



Cuomo: the darling of the Jewish lobby

THE "Jewish lobby" is a ghost that eternally stalks the American political landscape. Observed most by those who fear it, the shadowy power of Jewish organization, money and opinion is a favourite topic for conspiracy theorists.

One of those who has shown little fear of its influence has been George Bush — too little, according to the election campaign which is fighting to put the president back in the White House. Last year, in a rare admission that the ghost had been seen at the Oval Office window, the president described his delay of housing loan guarantees to Israel as "one lonely guy" against "a lobby

Republican strategists could be in for a rude shock after neglecting the pivotal power of the American Jewish lobby, Peter Stothard reports

of thousands". He has put more pressure on an Israeli government than any president in US history. Last month, his administration backed a condemnation of Israel at the United Nations. One of the generally accepted barriers to Mr Bush's re-election is the belief that he does not stand for anything, that he bends before pressure as naturally as a credit card promoting flexible friendship. On this issue,

however, his electoral advisers would like him to show less steel and more of his usual plastic.

America's six million Jews are not a monolithic political bloc. Their neo-conservative intellectual leadership, for example, is organising against President Bush's right-wing challenger, Patrick Buchanan, whom it accuses of anti-Semitism for describing Congress last year as "Israeli-occupied" territory.

Many members of Jewish groups are liberal Democrats who share President Bush's impatience with Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's prime minister, support "land for peace" and oppose the expanded settlements.

In conversations across the country recently it has been hard, however, to mistake the general Jewish antagonism to Mr Bush and his Secretary of State, James Baker. Patrick Buchanan is not the issue. More important is the perception that the country's two leading foreign policy-makers are "country club Republicans" by culture, pro-Arab diplomats by training, and more concerned with their own place

in history than the place of Israel. A few months ago that probably did not matter. Republicans could brusquely point out that most Jews are Democrats, that President Bush's 1988 victory was won with less than a third of the Jewish vote and nowhere depended on it; also that the peace process was winning plaudits almost everywhere. Bush aides taunted that Mario Cuomo, New York's governor and darling of the Jewish lobby, would not have the guts to run. Without him in the race, Jewish support for Mr Bush's 1992 opponent would be as lukewarm as it was for Michael Dukakis in 1988. However, events are not turning out that way.

In a close contest, reliable Jewish votes in California, Florida and Illinois could be crucial. The recession is wrecking the president's initial re-election strategy of "steady as she goes" and, with the State of the Union address doing little to stop the rot, and the twin time-bombs of abortion and David Duke ticking away, there is clear trouble ahead. Governor Cuomo could still return to the race. Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor, is skillfully soothing the sensibilities of Jewish organisations. The final Democratic campaign could end up with stronger Jewish backing than that of any since Hubert Humphrey's in

1968. To Mr Bush's rivals the "Jewish lobby" is not a ghost to be feared. Rather it is, in Gilbert Ryle's phrase, a "ghost in the machine", a life-giving element that could yet transform mechanical campaigns into potentially winning ones.

Jerusalem: Israel yesterday warned America not to try to impose any conditions when it considers a request for \$10 billion (£5.5 billion) in loan guarantees to help absorb Soviet immigrants (Richard Beeston writes).

Mr Shamir told the Knesset: "We are very interested in receiving the guarantees, but we will not accept any kind of dictate with respect to government policy."

Refugees' lawyers condemn 'racism'

Outcry as Haitians are shipped home

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN Coast Guard cutter delivered the first of thousands of Haitian refugees back to their violent homeland yesterday, despite an outcry from international human rights organisations that they faced oppression, torture and possible death. Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, expressed "great concern" for the safety of the returnees and rebuked the Bush administration. Amnesty International deplored the US action, saying Haiti's human rights record since the military coup last September was "appalling". A coalition

of seven big American rights organisations demanded that Mr Bush "halt immediately" the forcible repatriations. American journalists at the US Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba, where 10,448 Haitians have lived in a tent city since being picked up from rickety boats on the high seas, described distraught and desperate refugees being loaded onto ships over the weekend. "Kill me now," one screamed. "They killed my wife. They killed my mother. They killed my sister. If I go back to Haiti, they will kill me too."

The Supreme Court lifted a

lower court injunction barring the repatriations late last Friday, and the administration began the process within hours. The State Department said the repatriations were essential to deter thousands more Haitians risking their lives attempting the perilous sea crossing to Florida. It claimed that most of the boat people were fleeing poverty not political repression, making them ineligible for asylum in America, and that there was no evidence that past returnees had been mistreated.

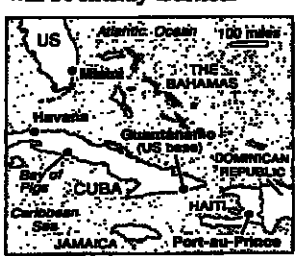
However, neither the US embassy nor human rights organisations have the resources left in Haiti to monitor the returnees after they leave Port-au-Prince, the capital. The arrival of yesterday's first batch of 154 Haitians was delayed so they would not be released in darkness.

US treatment of the Haitians has invited comparisons with Britain's forcible repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong which the Bush administration has strongly criticised. Lawyers for the refugees have accused the administration of racism, noting that white Cuban refugees are automatically accepted in America.

The exodus from Haiti was sparked by the coup which toppled Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the Caribbean nation's first democratically elected president, and accelerated last November when America and the Organisation of American States imposed rigid sanctions.

Earlier American attempts to repatriate the Haitians were blocked by legal challenges in Miami, but the Supreme Court finally overturned the injunction after the administration claimed another 20,000 were massed on Haiti's shores ready to take to the seas.

Paul Latortue, a Haitian economist teaching at the University of Puerto Rico, said the returnees' problems would begin when they got to their home towns or villages. Out of international sight, they would be persecuted. They will be blown to the four corners of the country and, where they land, many will be silently crushed.



US Coast Guard cutter at Guantanamo naval base in Cuba before being forcibly repatriated



Flight of fury: a Haitian refugee holds her baby on board a US Coast Guard cutter at Guantanamo naval base in Cuba before being forcibly repatriated

Johannesburg white areas picked for black townships

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT de Klerk and Nelson Mandela said yesterday that a transitional government, representing all South Africa's communities, could be in place before the end of the year, according to Joelle Bourgeois, the French ambassador to Pretoria, who attended their separate meetings in Paris with President

Mitlerand. In South Africa, it was announced that 13 areas bordering white dormitory towns between Johannesburg and Pretoria had been reserved for possible black township development. The announcement came as residents of Bloubastrand outside Randburg, northwest of Johannesburg, continued to man barricades that they had erected across roads leading to an 80-acre site on which the Transvaal provincial administra-

tion plans to relocate 750 black squatter families.

Piet Wilken, for the administration, said yesterday: "That does not mean that they (the townships) will be developed." Interested parties would be consulted before anything was decided. Mr Wilken added: "We are not the big bully, but people should appreciate the extent of the problem." Accommodation for at least three million people would have to be found on the Witwatersrand by the year 2000, he said.

Meanwhile, the Bloubastrand residents' association is going ahead with plans to seek a supreme court order preventing the administration from relocating the squatters on their doorsteps from their present insanitary site at Zevenfontein. The administration has expropri-

ated the land and Randburg council has accepted it because most of the squatters work in the town.

Peter Bantock, the chairman of the association, said that it would be disastrous to try to effect a socio-economic mix of low-income people in shacks, sandwiched between upmarket plot owners in homes valued between 500,000 rands (£100,000) and a million rands. "We are not just aiming to block the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters," he said. "We will also co-operate to find a suitable place for their permanent settlement."

● Mine accident: At least ten miners were killed and 16 injured yesterday in rockfalls at a gold mine near Johannesburg, the owners, Anglo American Corporation, said. (Reuters)

Mailer makes his peace with CIA

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NORMAN Mailer spent seven years writing his 1,310-page epic of life in the Central Intelligence Agency, *Harlot's Ghost*. But only last week was the fiery 1960s radical, once the terror of the American establishment, finally admitted to the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. He was invited there as part of the CIA's guest speaker series.

His reaction to the standing-room-only audience of 500 spooks and dirty tricksters suggests that, if he had it all to do again, Mailer would write a different book. Indeed, as he makes his peace with the military-industrial complex, he may still decide to do so.

Far from being the flamboyant cold warriors of Mailer's imagination, the CIA employees struck him as polite, buttoned-down, bureaucrats and academics. "If I was told I was in a seminar at Georgetown or Harvard where intelligence was being discussed, I would not think twice," he told *The New York Times* in his only public comments on the visit.

The lifelong leftist, who once proposed the creation of a "people's CIA" to check the growing power of the real thing, even shocked some of his listeners with his boldness. Breaking a taboo dating back to American attempts to liquidate Cuba's Fidel Castro, Mailer said that he was not opposed to the CIA undertaking "wet jobs", which is KGB slang for assassinations. The American people would not be upset if the agency killed President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, he said.

Mailer, a second world war veteran who was a vociferous opponent of US involvement in Vietnam, also waxed philosophical about the business of espionage. "I told them that ideology distorts intelligence and that during the Cold War they ended up being seen by the world at large as spooks," he said.

He added: "Now that the Cold War is over, the CIA can get out of the bear trap of ideology and begin to provide serious and needed intelligence on the rest of the world." He received a standing ovation, and then got a chance to amplify his views in a separate two-hour debate with three dozen senior officials in the agency's inner sanctum, the private conference room of Robert Gates, the CIA director.

The CIA staffers refrained from challenging Mr Mailer on his ignorance of the brass tacks of spycraft.

Noriega 'was US ally' in drug war

Miami: Lawyers for Manuel Noriega, the ousted Panamanian leader, called him "our ally in the war against drugs" as they began his defence against drug and racketeering charges. The trial was delayed for seven weeks as the federal judge underwent heart surgery.

Jon May, for the defence, said that Noriega would present senior officials from the Drug Enforcement Administration, CIA and military to show that General Noriega worked closely with America. "The level and quality of the co-operation given by General Noriega to the United States was unprecedented," Mr May said in his opening statement. "General Noriega was our ally in the war against drugs."

The former leader, who was arrested by invading American troops, could get up to 140 years in prison if convicted on the charges. (AP)

Nuclear offer

Vietnam: Libya has told the International Atomic Energy Agency that all its nuclear facilities are open to inspection to prove it has no secret bomb production project, the agency said. (Reuters)

Ershad appeal

Dhaka: Hussain Mohammad Ershad, aged 62, the former president of Bangladesh who was overthrown in 1990, was sentenced by a special court to three years in prison for corruption but immediately appealed against the conviction.

Imams jailed

Algiers: Security officials said that 42 fundamentalist imams, accused of being behind calls for trouble, had been jailed. The police have also taken control of the former headquarters of the Islamic Salvation Front in central Algiers. (AFP)

Labor slumps

Canberra: Australia's Labor government, which lost votes heavily in recent Tasmanian elections, saw its popularity slump further in a poll published in *The Age* newspaper. Labor was put at 30 per cent to 52 per cent for the Liberal-National coalition. (Reuters)

Britons held

Delhi: Two Britons are in Indian army custody, accused of travelling in restricted areas and arming Naga insurgents. They were identified as David Ward, aged 30, and Steve Hillman, aged 23, by the Naga Vigil, a human rights group. (AP)

Desert storm

Cairo: Northern Egypt was battered by a sandstorm whipped up by the strongest winds in 15 years, and yellow haze blanketed the capital. Ground visibility at the airport fell to 200 yards. Roads from Cairo to the Mediterranean were closed. (Reuters)

Miners killed

Johannesburg: Ten gold miners were killed and 16 were injured by a tremor more than a mile-and-a-half underground. The Anglo American Corporation said the tremor triggered rockfalls at Western Deep Levels South, near Johannesburg.

School fees

Tokyo: Hideo Watanabe, Japan's minister of posts, has admitted in parliament that he had received "clean money" from parents in exchange for information on their children's entrance examinations. He did not say when or how much. (AFP)

Jackson fires first shot in Cola wars with a tear and a kiss

RESPLENDENT in SS officer's black leather tunic, a slim figure stood under an array of world flags yesterday to sign a historic treaty before the international media in New York.

It was, said the organisers, one of the decade's most significant events. Future historians are certain to mine the videotapes of this high-security event for clues to the new power balance in the post-cold war world.

The venue, a mere motorcade minute from the UN, was the Art Deco foyer of the venerable Radio City Music Hall. The man with the jackboots and red armband was Michael Jackson, America's pop icon with a higher income than the average Eurasian democracy.

The ever-gloved singer was announcing his first

Somewhat dazzled, Charles Bremner reports from New York on the billion-dollar hype that launched Michael Jackson on his latest world tour

world tour for four years and solemnly signing a "strategic partnership" with the Pepsi Cola company, a renewal of an alliance which Jackson said would "win the hearts and minds of teenagers all over the world". This would ensure victory for the company in the raging "Cola wars", the global struggle with other firms with headquarters in Atlanta.

How much was Pepsi paying Jackson to boost its product? "A lot of money," said Peter Kendall, Pepsi's British-born marketing chief, appearing rather uneasy beside the surgically re-

constructed performer. The figure, in the tens of millions of dollars, will be relative money next to the billion-dollar deal which Jackson recently signed with Sony Records.

"Good afternoon," the legendary recluse whispered to the crowd after descending the ceremonial staircase, his gold Sam Brown belt and medals twinkling in the TV lights. He fought off his bashfulness long enough to say the only reason he was touring was to raise money for a new charity "for children and ecology" which he is launching, called "Heal the World".

"The goal is to raise \$100 million by Christmas 1993," he said in his little-boy's voice. "It took everything to keep from crying," he sobbed after a clutch of choirboys rendered his *Heal the World* song from *Dangerous*, his new record. He then departed with a wisp of wave.

Michael Jackson's fortunes, not to mention those of senior Sony executives, hang precariously from the fate of *Dangerous* and the Jackson tour, which is to start in Britain in June. Thanks in part to the Schwartzkopf of all publicity offensives, Jackson has sold 10 million of the new record since its launch in November and it held the number one spot for a few weeks. But word in the industry has it that at 33 and more bizarre than ever, Mr Jackson is losing the teen market

which turned his 1982 *Thriller* into the biggest phenomenon in record history, selling 47 million.

The Jackson machine commandeered a chunk of prime-time television for the debut of *Remember the Time*, a multimillion-dollar video from *Dangerous*. In this, Jackson entertains the pharaohs of a politically correct Ancient Egypt and performs the first kiss of his career. The recipient of the awkward embrace is the model Iman, queen of an Afro-centric court. The kiss is part of a drive to sexualise Jackson, a hitherto androgynous persona whose most celebrated relationships have been with Bubbles, his pet monkey, and Muscles, a boar constrictor.

Review of Rolling Stones film, *Life and Times*, page 3



Superstar seller: a world tour for Michael Jackson, icon of pop music, will begin in Britain in June

Year of Monkey dawns

China reveals
in rewards
of reform

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

DENG Xiaoping, China's senior leader, appeared on the television screen yesterday dispensing new year greetings to people in Shanghai. He had been out of public view for almost a year, leading to speculation that his health was failing and his political position weakening.

Mr Deng has officially retired, and Peking likes to maintain the fiction that younger men are now ruling the country. But his appearance on the official television news confirms that he retains power and sends a strong message of economic reform combined with a political hard line. That is embodied

in Li Peng, the prime minister, who is making his first visit to the West since the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in 1989.

At the best of times, Mr Li and his activities are not popular. His is the name most closely linked with the Peking mass killings, as it was he who declared martial law. But the Chinese, who have seen Western leaders like John Major and James Baker come to Peking to shake hands with Mr Li in the past few months, are not surprised that the television news now shows him being welcomed abroad.

Mr Li's tour, taking in the United Nations Security Council as well as Italy, Switzerland, Portugal and Spain, was described by the *China Daily* yesterday as an "extraordinary accomplishment" for Chinese diplomacy. When the Peking sky exploded with fireworks it was not a celebration of Mr Li's foreign adventures, however, but a welcome for the Year of the Monkey.

Mr Li cannot hope that television ratings for his first steps in Lisbon will compare with those of the annual 3-hour, all-singing, all-dancing cabaret which sees in the lunar new year. An estimated 700 million people last night watched acts featuring actors and acrobats as gorillas.

Twelve years ago, in the last Year of the Monkey, Mr Deng began leading China out of the chaos of the cultural revolution and towards far-reaching economic reforms whose fruits are visible on every overflowing market stall in Peking. The recession is thousands of miles away. Shops made record earnings in the run-up to the new year.

As if to rub in the contrast with the West, newspapers are reporting that thousands of Americans spent Christmas homeless and hungry. Even Chinese made destitute by floods earlier this year are, according to official reports, being given flour and pork to make dumplings, the traditional dish which is the Chinese version of turkey.

But it is the noise which tells you it is new year. Firecrackers, theoretically designed to ward off evil, appear to be let off just for the hell of it. On average, there are about 75 fire alarms a day in the run-up to the festival.

In the countryside, peasants set off explosives which blow holes several feet wide in the earth. Despite official warnings, thousands of people are injured every year. One Peking hospital alone registers about 200 victims of fireworks every new year.

● Lisbon: Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister of Portugal, told Mr Li that the normalisation of relations between China and the European Community depended on "clear signs" of human rights improvements in Peking, Portuguese officials said. (AP)



Earth worship: Chinese children taking part in a Qing dynasty ritual at a large cultural temple fair in Peking, part of the build-up to the Year of the Monkey

Sex witness's public ordeal

Professor Anita Hill, who last year accused the Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas, of sexual harassment, said in an interview that she had been publicly vilified since her appearance before the Senate. "My parents were exposed to ugliness in a way that was really unfair and unfortunate, and hurtful to them. I was publicly vilified. And of course, that's ugly, and that's something that I would not wish on anybody else." Professor Hill stood up to seven hours of Senate questioning, airing charges that Mr Thomas badgered her for dates and offended her with lewd chatter while she was his aide from 1981-1983.

□ Ferdinand Marcos, accused of looting the Philippine treasury, actually made his wealth from Japanese booty from the second world war which he used in the secret but profitable trade of precious metals, his widow claimed. But Imelda Marcos said the late dictator, a former anti-Japanese guerrilla elected to Congress after the war, never declared the wealth to tax authorities because the rising politician thought it might be "embarrassing".

□ The widow refused to say how her husband discovered the treasure of General Tomoyuki Yamashita, how much it was worth, or where it is kept now.

□ India's President Venkataraman has urged Burma to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and transfer power to an elected government. He told Burma's new ambassador, Wynn Lwin, Delhi was concerned over Daw Suu Kyi's continued



detention and that the people of India greatly admired her unique leadership of non-violence and peaceful struggle for democracy, based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gan-

dhi. The president said Delhi was looking forward to the day when the Nobel laureate would be freed from house arrest, which began in July, 1989.

□ Mel Gibson has bought a house along the same celebrity-soaked beach as Sylvester Stallone and Goldie Hawn. He bought the Broad Beach home for about \$2 million, said Bill Mason, manager of Malibu Realty. The rustic house, next to a home owned by Emilio Estevez, was built in the 1940s and has five bedrooms, four bathrooms and 65 ft of private beach. Others with homes on Broad Beach include Sharon Gless, Danny DeVito, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Lemmon and Steven Spielberg.

□ Begum Khaleda Zia, the prime minister of Bangladesh, plans to halve her country's birth rate in three years. "The main target is to bring down the present yearly growth rate from 2.17 per cent to 1.08 per cent by 1995," she says. "Give me a planned family and I will give you a happy, prosperous and self-reliant country."

Afghans
foresee
peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PESHAWAR

PAKISTAN'S sweeping policy changes over Afghanistan have given new life to United Nations peace proposals. In hundreds of desperately overcrowded refugee camps in Pakistan, home to three million Afghans, there is rising hope that it might become possible to go home.

Many are packing up and leaving, convinced that the worst of the fighting is over. Their optimism may turn out to be premature, but there are grounds for believing that the war could be petering out. Pakistan has cut off all support to the seven mujahedin groups based in the border city of Peshawar, ending years of military belligerence towards Kabul, and has thrown its weight behind a five-point UN peace plan.

There now appears to be a real prospect for holding a peace conference which will be aimed at forming an interim government pending elections. The UN originally hoped to hold the conference in Turkey this month; April is now being discussed as a possibility.

The shift in Pakistani strategy followed top-level changes in the army brought about by the retirement of General Aslam Beg, the hard-line army chief. General Asif Nawaz, his successor, is a Sandhurst-trained liberal who believes that it is in the interests of Pakistan to stabilise Afghanistan.

Vietnam turns
its back on Tet

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HANOI

To the strident sounds of Cyndi Lauper, the American pop singer, and the crackle of a million firecrackers, Vietnamese celebrated Tet or the lunar new year festival last night, ushering in the Year of the Monkey.

Red-and-gold posters still festooned the streets marking the 62nd anniversary yesterday of the founding of the Indochinese Communist party, but ideology took a back seat in one of the world's last bastions of communism. "These days you are often hard put to know you are in a communist state," a Western diplomat said.

The party journals' new year editions, once filled with turgid dogma, are full of pictures of pretty Vietnamese pop stars, beauty contests, love stories, and even — in *New Hanoi*, the capital's newspaper — risqué shots of scantily-clad females. One front-page story has a first vice prime minister at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, inviting investors to Vietnam with a promise of preferential treatment. Two 12-year cycles ago, in the lunar calendar, in February 1968, one of the

climatic battles of the Vietnam war, the Tet offensive, took place in another Year of the Monkey. The Viet Cong took advantage of the confusion of Tet to launch a co-ordinated offensive, the firecrackers masking the sound of the AK47s.

Although the American and South Vietnamese forces beat them back with heavy losses, it was long claimed to have been a great victory, a "general uprising" of the masses. Yet one newspaper, this week, reviewing previous important Years of the Monkey, made no mention of it.

In fact, only on the most faded of posters these days does one now see pictures of armed workers and peasants defending the fatherland or routing the imperialists. The slogans nowadays are more likely to say: "It is good to put money in the bank."

A Hanoi student said the other day: "Vietnamese people want a better life, but we do not want blood or any kind of Tiannamen [the crushing of the pro-democracy movement in Peking in June 1989]. There has been enough war."

Why is the third world
always the first to suffer?

Apocalyptic disasters don't only happen in the Third World.

Drought, disease, war and earthquakes all occur in developed countries.

But because the people of the Third World are so poor, the effects are far more devastating.

And because the effects of disasters make them poorer still, they become yet more vulnerable.

If we can strengthen the people of the Third World, we can break this vicious 'poverty cycle'.

But to do so, we have to strike at the root causes of poverty which, because they are so entrenched, are dauntingly hard to tackle.

They are not as you might expect, catastrophes caused by nature, but mostly

caused by people.

And we believe that, while it is by no means easy, it is possible for people to undo the damage they have done.

How?

By reducing the crippling burden of Third World debts which account for over one fifth of their export earnings.

By increasing UK aid to the Third World which, this year, has dropped in real terms to its lowest level in 10 years.

By creating fair international trading regulations and raising the prices we pay for goods produced in the Third World.

By ensuring that, whatever aid we do provide goes directly to those who need it.

The poor.

Of course, we cannot eliminate all disasters, but there is much we can do to pre-

vent them taking such a terrible toll.

To do so requires far more than money although, heaven knows, we still desperately need more of it.

It requires a world-wide shift in attitude. And you, believe it or not, can help us achieve it.

If you're interested, please do fill in the coupon and we'll send you Christian Aid's leaflet on the subject.

Think of it as a first step towards making a lasting difference.

☐ I'd like to know more. Please send me your leaflet on the relationship between poverty and disasters in the Third World.

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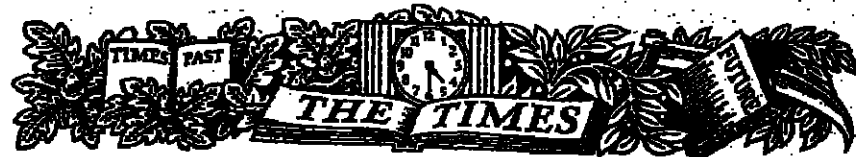
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To: Christian Aid, Freepost, London SE1 7YU or telephone 0800 300 390.

Christian Aid
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But the left need not worry that its sea-green incorruptible has finally named his price. Skinner says he knew nothing about the brochure until he was sent a copy, has never been to Butlins in his life, and will not be asking for a free holiday in return. "I shall ask them to make a donation to the sacked miners' fund," he says.



ELEVEN PLUS MINUS

Has Kenneth Clarke just cost the Tories this election but the next one? His encouragement of a return to academic selection, in effect for all state secondary schools, is extraordinary. The three-tier structure introduced by the 1944 Education Act was widely regarded as a mistake. Its branding of over half the nation's 11-year-olds as failures underlay the retarding of British further education in the postwar period. The 11-plus was the cross to which the Tory party was nailed at the 1964 general election.

If Mr Clarke has read his history, he is taking a fearsome risk. What was eerie about his weekend remarks was their lack of any historical reference. When Kenneth Baker introduced "opting out" in his 1988 act he explicitly denied what Mr Clarke has now asserted. He said it did not mean a return to selective grammar schools. Schools could not "change their character" simply by opting out. Mr Clarke last year about-faced and said that they could: exams could be set for entry. In one blow, Mr Clarke has reversed a quarter century of education policy.

Indeed since opted-out schools are in effect central government schools, Mr Clarke has gone back before the 1944 act. Those secondary schools remaining under local control will not just be subject to the cash restraints on local government from Whitehall. They will also find themselves with the children rejected by opted-out grammar schools. There will be both an institutional and a constitutional divide between bright pupils and the rest. No longer will a local town be able to take pride in its own grammar school. Ministers will claim credit for themselves, while attacking the town for the quality of its secondary moderns.

To avert this charge, Mr Clarke has revived the old bromides of the 1944 act. He says he wants to get away from the idea that the only "good" education is an academic one. The stigma on non-grammar schools is to be avoided by the growth of "technological" schools for children "not suited to the ethos" of the grammar school. Substitute technical for technological, and the post-1944 system lives again. Mr Clarke may share the pious hope of the 1943 white paper that 11-year-olds "should not be subjected to a competitive examination on which not only their future schooling but their future careers may depend." That hope crashed on the rocks of "intelligence testing" at 11-plus. It

also proved a proxy for classification by income — now to be reinforced by the "sink" status of those schools remaining in council ownership. The proposal is one of the fiercest acts of clock-reversal of modern times. How does this tally with John Major's advocacy of a classless society?

Many facets of comprehensive education have fallen short of expectation since the system was adumbrated in 1965. But the failure was attributable to classroom practice rather than to the structure of the system. Even so, many educationists would in retrospect have preferred a selective division at 15 into academic and technical streams: a compromise between the egalitarianism of comprehensive schools and the specialisation needed for vocational or pre-university education. On the inadequacy of British schooling between 11 and 18 there is much to be said.

Mr Clarke is not saying it. He is merely exploiting a nostalgia for the good old days among those who remember the grammar schools. As local councils soon discovered after the 1944 reform, which also believed in "parental choice", parental choice of school soon means school choice of parent. There is no point in weasel words about this. The 11-plus was intended to guide a child to the type of school best suited to his or her aptitude, what Mr Clarke would call the appropriate educational ethos. But it became simple selection by academic ability, a way of rationing access to grammar schools by refusing entry to less able children. Does the Tory party really share Mr Clarke's belief that British education will be salvaged by reviving the practice of labelling well over half Britain's children as irrevocable failures at 11 years of age?

The Tory party came to agree in the 1960s that 11-plus selection damaged Britain's education and was an albatross round the party's neck. Mr Clarke may believe that he can introduce selective schools and a bipartite institutional structure without an 11-plus, a hurdle to grammar school entry that may now be heightened by fee-paying. Nobody with experience of school admissions can understand how. Such a promise may delight some middle-class voters this time round. But when the rejection notes start falling on the doormats of Britain's 11-year-olds, a dreadful spectre will arise to haunt the Tories.

REALIGNED WITH REALISM

In a rare burst of political candour, the non-aligned movement has asked at its Cyprus summit whether it has a future. The name itself is an anachronism. With Russia and America now on the same side, there is no sense in 101 nations searching for an elusive political posture somewhere midway between East and West. Even the founding nations see the movement as passé. Yugoslavia, the current chairman, has itself fallen catastrophically between the two stools of communism and capitalism.

The self-delusion of the founding Bandung conference in 1955 is giving way at Larnaca to cold realism about today's world. Dialogue not confrontation with the world's rich nations is the only way to achieve a "new world order," the participants declared. As Lakhdar Brahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, admitted, the dominance of that order by America and its Western allies could no longer be denied. "It is visible to the naked eye. Their superiority is a fact," he said. His words are a far cry from the anti-colonialist rhetoric of Tito, Nasser, Sukarno and Nehru.

A few other home truths might be pondered. Human rights and democracy are not Western devices to perpetuate imperialist dominance. They have vivid meaning for the oppressed of Third World authoritarian regimes. A posture of "solidarity" — never condemning one of their own — robbed the movement of political credibility even among its members. The Gulf war was only the latest example. As George Iacovou, the Cypriot chairman, said, at a time of profound change the non-aligned were at risk of being overtaken by events.

Such new realism might save the non-aligned from being swept away along with

the Cold War that engendered the concept. Despite a diversity that can bring Cuba and Singapore under the same political roof, the members do have concerns in common. These include trade, development, the environment, economic migration and the introduction of Western technology to unsophisticated societies. Only in negotiation with the West can such challenges be resolved. The West also needs to co-operate with many of the movement's members in dealing with such issues as migration. All need to co-operate in saving the global environment, as the blame for pollution begins to spread to the less developed countries.

The interests of the non-aligned are broadly those of the South, and the movement increasingly is identified as the interlocutor in the North-South dialogue. It can legitimately ask that it should have a bigger say in the leadership of the United Nations, where it commands a majority in the General Assembly. But as a monolithic political force it has little future. With triennial summits, biennial meetings of foreign ministers and a rotating presidency that functions like the European Community troika, it has the loosest possible structure. This can do little more than co-ordinate meetings, encourage exchanges of experience and talk with the North and the rich.

Yugoslavia has already decided that it cannot carry on a fictitious leadership and will share office with its successor, Indonesia. Twenty foreign ministers have called for a new examination of the movement's role. But the movement must put what might be termed its house in order before it can regain respect. Otherwise the Larnaca summit will be the fading echo of a movement that has outlived the usefulness of its founders' vision.

SING FOR GOLD

The first contest of this summer's Olympic wars in Barcelona is being fought, but between opera singers not athletes or administrators. José Carreras, the team captain, has left his rival, Alfredo Kraus, out of the heavyweight squad selected to sing a medley of popular arias at the opening ceremony. Señor Kraus, never a man to sing pianissimo when in fortissimo mode, describes his omission as a declaration of war. Art is streaking onto the field of sport. Pavarotti and Puccini were stars of the World Cup. Verdi is leading the "men's downhill" at the Winter Olympics.

This connection between sport and art has been there from the beginning. Pindar wrote anthems for Olympic winners and Nero won gold not just for the chariot race, in spite of falling out of his vehicle, but also for individual singing to the lyre. Greek judges knew which side their marks for artistic impression were banneted on.

Art was intended to be an integral part of the modern Olympics and still survives there, though not much noticed above the roar of the commentators. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, that brilliantly doty visionary who reinvented the modern games, meant them to be a celebration of the complete man, body, mind and soul. He introduced into the games a series of artistic contests, which continued until 1948.

These artistic Olympic contests never quite worked. The top artists and musicians of the world did not mind judging but were reluct-

ant to enter their works for judgment by others. The logistics of transporting large sculptures and symphony orchestras to play new works were enormous. There was a fear that an Olympic gold might increase the value of a work of art, so transgressing the Olympic obsession with amateurism. (This fear was groundless: the painting of *The London Boxing Championships* which won the gold in 1948 was sold some years later for only 16 guineas.) Objective standards can perhaps be applied to synchronised swimming, but not to works of art from different cultures.

The artistic Olympics were not helped by the rule that they were for new works of art directly inspired by sport. Although Honnegger composed a symphonic movement entitled *Rugby*, the relationship between a work of art and its inspiration is seldom direct. Coubertin himself won the gold for literature at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. His *Ode to Sport* was concealed behind two pseudonyms and began "O Sport, delight of Gods, distillation of life! In the grey dingle of modern existence..." It then schussed downhill.

Article 39 of the Olympic code still requires the host country to organise a festival of the arts near the venue of the athletics. On the touchlines at Barcelona there will be Picasso and Miró and Antonio Gaudí. Art should stay there, while remaining as much a part of the whole man as athletics. The Games are already chauvinistic and noisy enough, without the aggravation of odium artisticum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Tourist influence on conservation

From Dr David Bellamy

Sir, I agree with your editorial, "Costa del Verde" (January 27), that the most environmentally friendly tourists are the ones on a high-season package, but only if the environment in which they take their holiday is well managed and has all the pertinent infrastructure, transport, sewage and waste disposal for the visitors, and education and medicare for the locals. This has rarely been the case in the past.

That is why the Alps are eroding more rapidly, threatening European water supplies from the rivers which rise there, and endangering the viability of many alpine resorts, and why it is now costing millions of pounds to put large stretches of the Mediterranean back into working order. Meanwhile the developers who perpetrated these high-impact schemes in the past are going through the same cheap-skate motions in pastures new.

To see no good in what you call the "self-righteous Green backpacker" shows a misunderstanding of the world we live in and the history of the conservation movement. In the really bad old days, the locations of rare or child and birds' nests etc., were kept secret in the name of conservation.

We learned by our mistakes as more and more key sites were destroyed by accident because planners' bulldozer-drivers and even landowners did not know they were there.

Unfortunately the same is now true of even the remotest parts of the world, in imminent danger of destruction either for the needs of local often desperately poor people or for some huge and often ill-conceived development. Take for example the plight of the big game of Africa, orang utans in Sabah, even pandas in China. The only ones that are at least "safe" are those which are the focus of tourist attention.

The reason that the Franklin river in Tasmania still flows free down to the sea is that those same backpackers not only signed petitions but stood in front of the bulldozers and even went to prison to save one of the wonders of the world.

As in the case of anything, the success and sustainability of tourism of any sort lies in balance and good management.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BELLAMY
(Founder-Director,
The Conservation Foundation,
1 Kensington Gore, SW7,
January 29.

Ostrich farming

From Mr Philip Lymbery

Sir, So animal welfare objections to ostrich farming can be solved simply by the mobile abattoir solution can they? ("Farmers stick their necks out on ostrich venture," January 29).

Having hatched a number of chicks recently, Britain's first ostrich farmers are keen to promote this new industry. Yet little thought appears to have been given to future welfare problems.

It is easy to cater for the welfare needs of a handful of ostriches. But should ostrich farming take off commercially, things might be very different. Mobile abattoirs are foreseen to be practical for killing small numbers of animals. However, farming these huge birds on a commercial scale may inevitably mean killing them in more conventional slaughterhouses.

Abattoir slaughter is traumatic enough for fully domesticated ani-

mals. How much more so will it be for the easily frightened and relatively wild ostrich?

Already, the spectre of intensive farming is looming over the ostrich. Work is currently underway in the USA into developing artificial insemination techniques. This procedure is universally used in the factory farming of turkeys. Indeed, a spokesperson for the USA Ostrich Association has been quoted as saying that the ostrich will lend itself well to intensive farming once suitable bloodlines, vaccines and preventative treatments have been perfected.

I am sure that many people are deeply saddened that the proud ostrich has been sent down the road to the factory farm.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP LYMBERY,
Compassion in World Farming,
20 Lavant Street,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
January 29.

Straight from the Bard

From Mr John Faulkner

Sir, Lady Hylton (letter, January 18) asks what the mystery character Pat was doing in *Hamlet*. He had gone to the Danish court to bring home his errand good-time sister, Else, who had got into some very dubious company.

Else was hanging round while Hamlet met the Ghost. "What Else, shall I couple Hell?" She chased Ophelia's bier with Laertes: "What ceremony, Else?" She was an accessory to the murder of Gonzago, keeping cave for Lucianus: "Else, no creature seeing." A groupie's life at Elsinore could be tough.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FAULKNER,
33 Hadley Gardens, W4.

From Professor John R. G. Turner

Sir, When I played *Macbeth* at school, a younger boy told me he had once played in an adult production. What part? "Sirrah," he replied.

Sure enough, Lady Macduff's first words to her son are "Sirrah, your father's dead."

But, as it says in *Pericles*, "We sit too long upon trifles."

Yours,
J. R. G. TURNER,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Genetics,
Leeds LS2 9JT.

Notices of coding

From Mr Michael Banister

Sir, I have just received, as no doubt have millions of others, my notice of coding for the fiscal year 1992-3 from HM Inspector of Taxes.

I know and the inspector knows that the notice will be rendered out of date on March 10 when the Chancellor announces the new levels of allowances in accordance with long-established custom. In a few weeks' time a new notice of coding, replacing the first, will turn up in millions of letter boxes. This practice has been standard for years.

Can anyone explain why this huge waste of paper and postage has been allowed to go on for so long and why it is allowed to continue?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BANISTER,
102 Ladbroke Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
January 28.

Born to the job

From Mr Jonathan C. Lord

Sir, Aspiring conductors have a distinct advantage if their birthday is April 29 (letter, January 29). Among those born on that day are Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Malcolm Sargent and, more recently, Rudolf Schwarz and Zubin Mehta. The musical talent of this herd of Taurians is not, alas, shared by

JONATHAN C. LORD
(Born April 29, 1953)
11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow,
January 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Aftermath of East Timor massacre

From Lord Avebury

Sir, On February 5 Mr Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is to meet his Indonesian counterpart, Mr Ali Alatas. It may be surmised that Mr Alatas will try to reinforce the message of his new year statement, reported by the Indonesian Embassy in London, that "the National Investigation Commission's report on the November 12 incident in Dili... was final, and he hoped countries friendly to Indonesia would understand Indonesia's sincerity in handling the case".

The "incident" referred to here was the cold-blooded massacre of more than 100 young people at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, the capital of East Timor, on November 12, 1991.

The victims had been demonstrating against Indonesia's invasion of the territory, formerly a Portuguese colony, and Jakarta's defiance of ten resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, calling for the withdrawal of the Indonesian army of occupation, and the holding of an internationally supervised plebiscite.

Television viewers who saw the First Tuesday programme on January 7 will know that the demonstrators were peaceful and unarmed, and that the massacre was a premeditated and carefully planned

operation, rather than a "spontaneous reaction by soldiers to protect themselves", as the commission declared.

Mr Alatas no doubt hopes to make excuses for the commission, and to pretend that the replacement of the local commander was an adequate response to mass murder by his troops.

Mr Alatas should be told that an essential component of the new world order is that violations of article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits forcible acquisition of territory, whether in Kuwait or East Timor, will no longer be tolerated, and that severe economic penalties will follow if Indonesia continues to defy the rules of international law.

The solution to the human rights catastrophe which has engulfed the people of East Timor for 16 years, costing the lives of a third of the population, is for the imperialists from Java to get out. The people who were killed in the Santa Cruz cemetery were prepared to sacrifice their lives if it meant freedom for their people, and the United Nations must not let them down.

Yours faithfully,
AVEBURY
(Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group),
House of Lords,
February 2.

Religious schools

From the Suffragan Bishop of Repton

Sir, Mr F. H. Pedley (letter, January 22) makes a plea, on both educational and religious grounds, to abolish aided schools, because the attempt to link education with religion has been half-hearted. I would contend that the abolition of aided schools would be even more advantageous in that part of the United Kingdom where the link between education and religion has been anything but half-hearted, namely Northern Ireland.

I have just returned from Israel, where I have listened to both Jews and Arab Christians claim that the best hope for peace is to bring up a generation which can identify with both traditions, the Israeli and the Palestinian.

When I consider how much easier it would be to foster such a dual inheritance in Northern Ireland where both the Unionists and the Nationalists share not only the same faith but also the same mother tongue, and where religious affiliation is not expressed by a distinctive dress, it saddens me that the churches and the state continue to acquiesce in the sectarian divide by allowing aided schools to continue.

The Roman Catholic population has the right, as does the Protestant population, to give its children appropriate religious education in school, but surely this need not entail the segregation of children, Roman Catholic from Protestant, at the most impressionable period of their lives.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY REPTON,
Repton House,
Lea, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Public v. private

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, In your leader, "Uncivil servants" (January 28), you make two large assumptions as though they were self-evident ("self-evident" of course means "I am stating an assumption which I have no means or intention of proving but hope you will be bounced into accepting").

"Why then is the service still bad?" you ask. Nobody thinks it perfect; but in reality it is generally bad? I have just been to a presentation of plans for a new bypass. All the ministry's young officials whom I troubled with questions were conspicuously helpful, knowledgeable and motivated by doing a job well.

You state that the target to be aimed at is "a service good enough to rival the private sector". My own

experiences do not suggest that standards in the private sector are necessarily such as to inspire anyone. And there seems to be a widespread feeling that the banks are hardly a good example of service to customers. If you want an exemplary service I recommend dealing with the National Savings head office — even though they are civil servants.

Much, as always, needs to be improved in the public sector. But your flights of rhetoric contribute only to mythology. I see nothing to persuade me that service in the private sector is better just because it is private: some is good and some poor — as in the public sector.

Yours faithfully,
N. PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
January 29.

Missing helmet

From Mrs Sally Holloway

Sir, It would be interesting to know if any of your readers have pictures or memorabilia linking Edward VII with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (letter, January 25).

I am writing a history of firefighting in London for the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and, despite intensive research, have been unable to trace his helmet or uniform.

Only a handful of contemporary magazines published illustrations showing him at demonstrations of fire equipment or fire brigade displays. One water colour, by Charles Sheldon, depicts him in full uniform, at a fire.

Does more exist or was firefighting another of his spare-time activities which embarrassed his family and friends (other than the Duke of Sutherland and the Earl of Cathness, both of whom were also fire fanatics)?

Yours truly,
SALLY HOLLOWAY,
95 Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13,
January 25.

An honour shared

From Mr James A. Blair

Sir, Your Diary (January 27) says that the Rector of St Giles in the Fields may be the last man to claim the title of being honoured by the Soviet Union, for his efforts in the second world war.

Since 400 of the commemorative medals were awarded, of which I received one on December 6, there must be 400 of us who are "last" to be honoured.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES A. BLAIR,
Barnfield House,
85 Barnfield Wood Road,
Beckenham, Kent,
January 28.

From Rear-Admiral John Grant

Sir, May I provide the London vicar, who seeks the translation of the certificate of his Russian commemorative medal with the English version. On page one is shown Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Confirmation Certificate to the Jubilee Medal "Forty Years of Victory in the

Magnetic propulsion

From Mr Stuart Mustow, FEng

Sir, The launch of the world's first "magnetically driven" boat at Kobe (report and photograph, January 28) is a reminder of how seriously the Japanese have been taking the possibilities of magnetic propulsion and levitation — possibilities which will be greatly enhanced as the use of superconductors becomes more practical.

We in Britain were early in this field, and the world's first "Maglev" transit system in operational service has been carrying passengers between Birmingham international airport and Birmingham international railway station since 1984.

Sadly, however, British industry has not built on the opportunities provided by this experience and it seems inevitable that it will be the Japanese who will reap the benefits of their own and others' R&D. Must it always be so?

Yours faithfully,
STUART MUSTOW,
9 Knighton Road,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands,
January 29.

Great Patriotic War "1941-1945"

on page 2 — "Forty years of victory in the patriotic war 1941-1945: Participant in the war"; and finally on page 3 — "Name and initials" has been awarded the medal: (Signed facsimile); President of the USSR — M. Gorbachev, 31st July 1991.

I also received one of the above medals as I formed part of the escort of Russian convoys PQ 14 and QP 11, while in command of the ex-American destroyer HMS Beverley (ex USS Branch) in April/May, 1942.

Possibly the Beverley was the only ex-US destroyer to take part in Russian convoys and also, incidentally, in a gun action with German destroyers when they attacked QP 11 after the cruiser Edinburgh had been immobilised and later sunk. These actions were in the Barents Sea in close proximity to, and sometimes among, icebergs.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRANT,
9 Rivermead Court,
Ranelagh Gardens, SW6,
January 27.

Beetle benefits

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, Your editorial, "Let beetles boom" (January 25), proclaims the importance of species that make up two-fifths of all insects and hence total many millions. We are surely losing dozens of these species every day.

Their ecological roles apart, beetles supply economic benefits. In common with other insects, they possess chemicals to ward off environmental threats such as predators; for instance, the European blister beetle's cantharidine. This toxin is used to treat venereal disorders in humans. Dozens more such instances can be cited, even though scientists have undertaken merely cursory assessments of only a fraction of 1 per cent of beetles.

In light of the commercial potential, the American pharmaceutical enterprise Merck has leased forest patches from the Costa Rica government in order to search for insect chemicals. The \$1 million agreement ensures Costa Rica will derive financial benefit from its exceptional efforts to safeguard remaining forests with their insect throngs.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow, Old Road,
Headington, Oxford.

British Council staff

From Mr W. Keith Dobson

Sir, Professor Hughes draws attention (letter, January 29) to the reduction of British Council staffing in the Nordic countries. The council takes no joy in the reductions; but like all institutions, whether publicly or privately funded, it has to make hard decisions about the most efficient and effective use of scarce resources.

In rising to the enormous challenge of new opportunities in the Baltic countries and elsewhere in east and central Europe, the council has enjoyed full support — and substantial new funding — from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; but the scale of these historic opportunities is such that we have also had to make painful redeployments of our own existing resources.

We are taking great care to ensure that there will be no reduction in funding available to support the kind of educational collaboration to which, like Professor Hughes, we attach the highest priority.

Yours sincerely,
W. KEITH DOBSON
(Director, Europe Division),
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1,
January 29.

Boom in sales

From Mr Rupert Jarvis

Sir, I imagine that the manufacturers of "Sale now on" notices are experiencing something of a boom.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT JARVIS,
14a Murray Place,
St Andrews, Fife,
January 24.

Duke of Cornwall, received the Secretary of the Duchy (Mr David Llandale) and Mr David Naish at Kensington Palace.

His Royal Highness presented the Ian Charleson Awards this afternoon at the National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 3: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a lecture by Nigel Hepper, "Plant Hunting for Kew", at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

Mr Robert Nicholas Hill to be a joint district judge at the Kingston Crown Court and at the County courts and joint district judge in the district registry of Kingston-upon-Hull, York and Scarborough, from April 1.

Mr Montague Frank Treant to be a district judge at the West London group of county courts, from April 1.

Mr Eytal Lloyd Parry, Mr David Rupert Sneyd and **Mr John Robert Wainman** to be full-time Chairmen of Industrial Tribunals, from February 3. **Mr Lloyd Parry** is assigned to the Manchester region; **Mr Sneyd** to the Birmingham region and **Mr Wainman** to the Sheffield office of the Leeds region.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Polish patriot, Mierzeczwosc, 1746; William Adams, 1786; Richard Lamm, 1881; Edwin Pratt, poet, Western Bay, Newfoundland, 1883; Ugo Betti, dramatist, Camerino, Italy, 1922; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Protestant theologian, Breslau, 1906.

DEATHS: Lucius Septimius Severus, Roman emperor 193-211, U. S. 211; John Rogers, Protestant martyr, burnt at the stake, London, 1555; Robert Koldewey, archaeologist who excavated Babylon, Berlin, 1925; Roger Libavsky, architect, 1976; Karen Carpenter, singer, 1983; Liberec, pianist, 1987.

The Yalta Conference of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, 1945.

Order of St John
The Speaker, as President of the Order of St John All-Party Group, gave the dinner his night speech. The speaker was in honour of Mr Neil Thorne, chairman of the group, Lord Vesey, Lord Prior of the Order of St John, and members of the group and of the order. Among others present were:

Mrs Weatherill, the German Ambassador, the High Commissioner for Somalia and Sierra Leone, the Viscount of Arundell, Lord Westbury, Sir Bernard Ingham, MP, Sir Kenneth Sir Wyn Roberts, MP, Sir Alan Stewart, MP, Mr Harold Wallace, MP, the Hon. Sir David Gifford, MP, Sir James Glyn, MP, Sir John Whittinger, MP, Sir John Grieve, MP, Sir John Thompson, Professor A de Melville and Mrs T J Everett.

Overseas Bankers Club
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers' Club at the Grosvenor Hotel last night at Guildhall. Sir John Quinlan, president, was in the chair and M Jacques Attali, President of the

Order of St John. The Order of St John AL-Parry Group gave a dinner last night at Speaker's house in honour of Miss Nell Thorne, chairman of the group, Lord Vesey, Lord Prior of the Order of St John, and members of the group under the order. Among other guests were:

Mrs Weatherill, the German Ambassador, the High Commissioner for Pakistan and Begum Khan, the Viscountess of Arundell, Mrs W. B. Mordaunt, Mrs J. H. Mordaunt, Mr Bernard Braine, MP, Mr Al Macfarlane, MP, Mr C. G. Duffell, MP, Mr R. P. Howard, Walpole, MP, the Hon Mrs Gerald Guinness, MP, Sir Alan Jones, Governorship Paludancy, MP, Sir James Williams, MP, Sir Peter Vane, MP, Patrick Wright, Sir Geoffrey Milford-Town, Sir George A. Melles and Mr T J Brewer.

Overseas Bankers Club

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, attended the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers' Club held at the Grosvenor Hotel last evening. The guests included:

Guildhall, Sir John Quinton, president, was in the chair and M Jacques Attali, President of the

Resignations and retirements
The Rev David R Hewitt, Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, resigned as rector of the Glasgow Diocese on 31 January 1992.
The Rev John B Langston, Vicar of St Andrew's and Warrington Diocesan House, resigned as rector on 31 March.
The Rev Marylyn T Morgan, Secretary of the Diocese of Newcastle, resigned (Chesham) as rector as from 30 April 1992.
The Rev Canon J R Girdlestone, rector of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, resigned (Chesham) as rector as from 30 April 1992.

Withdrawal of acceptance
The Rev Frank A Cowley, Vicar of St David's Church, Glasgow (Chesham), has withdrawn his acceptance of the appointment as rector of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, from 1 January 1992.
The Rev Esmund G. G. Williams, Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, has withdrawn his acceptance of the appointment as rector of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, from 1 January 1992.

Other appointment
Mrs Gill Lundy-Pear has been appointed as Secretary of the Development Committee of the Diocese of Newcastle, representing St Edmund's and St James' Churches, Newcastle.

Church of Scotland
Ordination and induction
The Rev Duncan C Hodge to be ordained as Minister of the Gospel, was inducted as Minister of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, on 27 January 1992.
The Rev David A. Macdonald, Minister of the Gospel, was inducted as Minister of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, on 27 January 1992.
The Rev David A. Macdonald to be ordained as Minister of the Gospel, was inducted as Minister of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, on 27 January 1992.

Translations
The Rev Canon J R Girdlestone, rector of St Andrew's Church, Glasgow, resigned (Chesham) as rector as from 30 April 1992.

The following have been elected officers of the Upholders' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Judge R. Cole; Senior Warden, Mr J.C.F.B. Byllam-Barnes; Junior Warden, Mr W.A. Garnett.

West London
Ms Lesley Page, director of midwifery, John Radcliffe Maternity Service, Oxford, has been appointed to the chair in midwifery and women's health, Queen Charlotte's College, West London Polytechnic, from March.

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was host at a reception held yesterday at City Hall to promote Opportunity 2000.

The following have been elected officers of the Horners' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Harry Kleeman; Upper Warden, Mr Jeremy Spofforth; Rent Warden, Dr Eric Hunt; Deputy Master, Mr Donald du Par Braham.

Royal Over-Seas League
Mr K.S. Duncan was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James' Park. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

[illegible][illegible]

3rd. Mrs. Mary and daughter, Jacqueline, will be present. Friends may call on Monday, Feb. 10, at Elton College, Journalism and P.R. Club, Funeral at Golden Gate Chapel on February 17th, 10:30 a.m. Friends of the deceased are invited, only donations in lieu of flowers. John's Hosiery, 60, Grove St., Boston, Mass.

KEIR On January 25th, 1958, suddenly, Corlie, deceased, 57 years, of 204 West 10th St., died. She was the wife of Nicholas and All, and happily grandmother of two children. She was born in Virginia and Max, Small, funeral service at the Good Shepherd, 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Corlie was followed by a Memorial Service in St. Mary's Church, 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Please no flowers. We request that all donations to go to Cancer Research, 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Contributing for her wonderful contribution to life with her family. She graciously and kindly lived all who knew her and her family. Her family consists of the mother of everyone with her family. There were no other relatives like Carolie King.

KEVILLE On January 31st, 1958, died, Mrs. William E. Keville, 91, of Nursing Home, Highland Park, 91, 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Beloved husband for 62 years of Alice, who predeceased him by 7 weeks. Dearly loved by his children, Mrs. William E. Keville, Christopher, and by his sons and daughters in law, Mrs. William E. Keville, and grandchildren. Grateful thanks to all the Nursing Home staff for the kind and gentle cremation followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints Parish Church, Grosvenor on Friday, Feb. 11, 1958. Family flowers only. Donations desired to Kingsley's Fund for St. Vincent's, 1100, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Cheamish Street, London SW1X 8WV.

KINLOCH On February 1st, 1958, died, Mrs. Mary Kinloch, 55, of 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Beloved wife of the late Mr. James Kinloch, 55, of 1000, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. Funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1958, 10:30 a.m. Donations if desired to St. Vincent's, 1100, 17th St., 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10, 1958. c/o Mummy, F/D, 31, Devonshire Road, Bechtel-on, St. East Sussex, TN38 8WV.

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LAING On January 30th, 1992, Thomas Malvern died. Captain Royal Navy, beloved husband of Margaret, devoted father of Anna and Richard. A Service of Remembrance will be held at St. Mary's Church, Great, near Petersthead on Tuesday, February 11th, 11.15am. Donations, if wished, to the Jamnial Fund, c/o The Seavale, Peterhead. The Seavale, Peterhead.

LEA On February 2nd 1992, at his home, aged 80 years, after a long illness, She will be sadly missed by relatives and friends. A funeral service at St. Alphege Parish Church, Southill, on Tuesday, February 11th, 11.15am, followed by private interment in the cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to the wardens of St. Alphege Church, The Rectory, Southill, Peterhead.

LLOYD On January 31st, 1992, peacefully in The Royal Infirmary, Peterhead. Haywards Heath, wife of the late Mr. John Lloyd, of 11, Al Salts Church, Lindfield on Thursday, February 11th, 11.15am, followed by burial in the cemetery. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, for the R.S.P.C.A., c/o Mrs. J. Lloyd, 19, Son, 20, High Street, Lindfield. Sumner RH16

MOISER On January 30th, peacefully at his home, Normanton, aged 80 years. Mother of Sae, Jeremie, Norma and Caroline and grandmother of 10. A funeral service at St. Nicholas Church, Winstley, near Peterhead, on Tuesday, February 11th, at 4.45pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to the R.S.P.C.A., c/o Mrs. J. Moiser, 19, Son, 20, High Street, Lindfield. Sumner RH16

MORGAN On February 1st, 1992, suddenly at his home, 10, The Grange, Peterhead. Mr. Morgan, very devoted and popular, beloved father, grandfather, brother and Minister of Malpas Road Baptist Church, Peterhead. Newspaper, "For" to be to the five to Christ and to die is to live. A funeral service at Malpas Road Baptist Church, Peterhead, on Tuesday, February 11th, 11.15am, followed by private interment in the cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations if desired, to the Evangelical Movement of Wales, c/o Mrs. J. Morgan, 19, Son, 20, High Street, Lindfield. Sumner RH16

NELMES On February 2nd, after a courageous fight with cancer, aged 66 years, died peacefully. He was the devoted husband of Mrs. Nemes, much loved father of John, Geoffrey, Jane and Edmund and grandfather of 10. A funeral service at Holy Family and All Saints, Peterhead, on Tuesday, February 11th, at 4.45pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired, to the Evangelical Movement of Wales, c/o Mrs. J. Nemes, 19, Son, 20, High Street, Lindfield. Sumner RH16

WICOL On February 1st, in hospital Elizabeth Marlon Ross, devoted wife of the late Mr. Wicoll, aged 80 years. Senior Chief Clerk of the Inner London Juvenile Court, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, 11th January, 1992, at 8.40pm. Funeral to be held at 11.15am, Ledbrook Road W10

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

HOOKER-VOSS - On February 4th 1942. At Woking, Surrey. 2nd Lt. Geoffrey Hooker, RA. to Edna Margaret Voss. Now at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr. Oliver Brown, who died on 27th January, will be buried privately on the morning of Wednesday 5th February. Friends who wish to attend are welcome at his home from 2.30 onwards.

**PERSONAL
APPEARS IN
LIFE AND TIMES
PAGE 13**

OBITUARIES

JOAN MORIARTY

Joan Denise Moriarty, founder of the Irish National Ballet, died in Cork on January 24. She was resolute in keeping her age to herself, but was probably in her late 70s.

MISS Moriarty, always addressed respectfully in that manner, was a renowned figure in Cork and eventually won for herself at least a footnote in the history of dance by her attempts to give her native land a national ballet company. Ireland, richly endowed with folk dances, had a taste for theatrical dancing, too, at least as far back as the middle of the nineteenth century, when Dublin was on the touring circuit of some of the great ballerinas of the romantic period. Taglioni, Elser and Gristi all visited the Theatre Royal there.

But there were no permanent companies where a young dancer could make a career. Anyone of talent and promise had to go abroad to find work. Moriarty herself, after some early training in the Cecchetti method, studied with various teachers in London and Paris. One of them was Marie Rambert, whom she quoted later, in a rare moment of self-revelation, as having told her: "You are doing no good here; you had better go home and make the Irish dance." Eventually she took this advice.

Joan Moriarty was born in Mallow, County Cork. On her return to Ireland in 1945 she set up a school of ballet in her native county, soon beginning to present her pupils under the title of the Cork Ballet Company in annual productions which began in 1947 and continued right up to last year. As more and more pupils and ex-pupils became available (some of them continued to appear year after year) the scale of these presentations, with the aid of guests in the leading roles, encompassed the big nineteenth century classic ballets: *Coppélia*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, even on occasion *The Sleeping Beauty*, although that demanded more male dancers than she could usually raise.

This, however, by no means satisfied her ambitions. She exhausted her energies. She ran a group of folk dancers too, and, dressed in the kilt with her pipes under her arm, personally led them to victory in international competitions. The photographs on her studio walls of her in this capacity, a big handsome woman with red hair, were more impressive than the ones of her in solo recitals wearing a "Grecian" tunic.

Her first attempt to set up a smaller, permanent company of professional standards came with the Irish Theatre Ballet from 1959 to 1964, started with the moral and

material support won by her standing in a community where almost all the local businessmen knew her as the dancing teacher of their wives and daughters.

Similar help supplemented the grant which a decade later the Irish government agreed to give, for the first time, to professional dance. This enabled Joan Moriarty to start the Irish Ballet Company which gave its first performances in 1974. Her principle choreographer was Domy Reiter Soffer, formerly a member of the Irish Theatre Ballet, who created for her a number of highly dramatic works. Her own contributions to the repertoire comprised a series of ballets drawing on specifically Irish themes.

The most ambitious and most successful of these was a dance version of *Synges The Playboy of the Western World*, a full evening work set to traditional Irish music which was played live by The Chiefains. Premiered at the 1978 Dublin Theatre Festival this later played to packed houses at Sadler's Wells where it was chosen as one of the main events of the festival "A Sense of Ireland" in London; it was also given a



Joan Moriarty at the City Center Theatre in New York.

This was the zenith of the company's achievements. It continued on much the same lines, but found neither the support nor the creative talent to develop any further artistically, although it was able to celebrate its tenth anniversary by changing its name to the Irish National Ballet. Not long after that, Moriarty resigned and a little later the company, after attempts to revitalise it under a new director, was dissolved when the Irish Arts Council withdrew its grant, which had increasingly attracted envious criticism because it took, except for the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, much the largest share of the government's arts budget.

Miss Moriarty's services to dance in Ireland were recognised by various awards including an honorary degree of doctor of law from the National University in Dublin.

Christa Gaa

CHRISTA Gaa, painter and wife of the Royal Academician Ken Howard, has died of cancer aged 54. Born in Hamburg in 1937, she studied German philosophy and art history in Cologne, Bonn and Florence between 1957 and 1960.

She then went on to study painting at the Fachhochschule für Kunst und Design in Cologne from 1975 to 1980. In the latter

year she moved to England. She was an artist much respected by her fellow painters, notably Carol Weight and Bernard Dunstan. Her work has a sense of restraint and quietude and she will probably be best remembered for her still-lives.

She was a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy and in 1986 was elected a member of the Royal Watercolour Society. There will be a memorial exhibition at the New Grafton Gallery in May.

£100m boost for Scotland

Stirling recaptures ancient grandeur

BY KERRY GILL

STIRLING Castle, home to many Scottish monarchs between the twelfth century and 1603, will have £20 million spent on its refurbishment as part of a £100 million investment in the town itself over the next decade, the government announced yesterday.

Up to 1,000 jobs will be created by the initiative, mainly through increased tourism.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister of state, said: "The government set up this initiative because Stirling has a key role to play in boosting Scotland's tourism industry."

"The proposals involve £100 million of investment over the next ten years, the majority of it from the private sector. The government have already a commitment of over £20 million towards development of Stirling Castle."

He said the proposals were designed to attract 600,000 visitors a year to Stirling. Work on the castle will include restoration of the Chapel Royal and the Great Hall, restoration of the royal apartments, tableaux displays, and

improved visitor facilities. The town's central riverside area will be developed to replace derelict land with office, hotel, retail and housing developments in a plan which is expected to boost Stirling's existing centre and to draw in more than £40 million of new private sector investment.

Environmental and housing improvements will be made to Stirling's historic Old Town including development of the Tolbooth, detention barracks and Argyll's Lodging, and improvements to the Albert Hall and Church of the Holy Rude.

Trinity College, Cambridge, has won a major award for a 23-year conservation project on its historic buildings costing in the region of £10m.

Europa Nostra, a federation of 25 countries devoted to the protection of cultural and national heritage, has awarded the scheme a diploma of merit.

It began with the restoration of the Wren Library in 1968 by the architects, Donald Insall and Associates.

EDWARD JUDGE



Edward Judge, a leading figure in the British steel industry prior to its nationalisation in 1967, died on January 8 aged 83. He was born on November 20, 1908.

Edward Thomas Judge, a leading figure in the British steel industry prior to its nationalisation in 1967, died on January 8 aged 83. He was born on November 20, 1908.

EDWARD Judge was involved in designing Sydney Harbour Bridge and constructed the massive Lackenby steel works on Teeside which is still a jewel in British Steel's crown. However, as president of the British Iron and Steel Federation he was also thrown into the midst of the acrimonious and ultimately abortive campaign to prevent steel nationalisation in 1967.

Judge attended Worcester Royal Grammar School before going up to St John's College, Cambridge, to read engineering. He went straight from there to the draughtsmen's office at Dorman Long, the company where he spent the next 37 years. Among his early projects was the design of Sydney Harbour Bridge, for which his contribution was recognised when he was invited to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations at Dorman Long's representative.

During the second world war Judge was the company's chief technical engineer, a reserved occupation. He spent a period in the United States and then became a member of the American Iron and Steel Institute. Immediately after the war he became chief engineer, reaching the board of Dorman Long in 1947. He thereupon

embarked on what was to be his greatest monument: the Lackenby works.

There had been a steel industry on Teeside for many years, but it was based in the former iron masters' district which was too far upriver for large ships to navigate. Judge set about buying land at the mouth of the Tees and building the mighty works, which stretched for some nine miles.

By the time it was finished in 1964 he was chairman of Dorman Long. Lackenby, now part of British Steel's general steel division, is still regarded as one of the world's foremost steel plants. As part of his commitment to the area, Judge became the minister of transport's representative on the Tees Conservancy Commission. But the 1964 Labour gov-

ernment was elected with a pledge to nationalise the steel industry. In 1965 Judge became president of the British Iron and Steel Federation, and so was the industry's spokesman when the government published a White Paper outlining its plans. The Labour party had a majority of only four in the House of Commons and it encountered opposition from two Labour MPs, Woodrow Wyatt and Desmond Donnelly. They were headed off by a promise from George Brown, the minister responsible, to "listen" to Wyatt's proposal that the state should buy only a controlling 51 per cent of the shares in the steel companies.

Harold Wilson, the prime minister, was forced to delay legislation until he had acquired a working majority at the 1966 election. In the meantime he faced a barrage of criticism from the industry, in which Judge played an important role. After nationalisation Judge left the industry. He became chairman of Reynolds Parsons, the electric turbine generator manufacturer, and a director of Pilkington, the glass maker, and BPB Industries.

Judge's main recreation was fishing, which enabled him to relax from the pressures of business. He is remembered as a man of few words, but also a shrewd assessor of character who was one of the steel industry's most forward-thinking leaders.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, and a son. Another son, Alan, who was also a director of Pilkington, died last year.

WANDA JABLONSKI



Wanda Jablonski, founder of *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, the oil industry's most influential newsletter, died in New York on January 28 aged 71. She was born in Czechoslovakia on August 23, 1920.

THE newsletter *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* stood out among its drab competitors as starkly as did the attractive Wanda Jablonski in the overwhelmingly male oil business. Rarely longer than eight pages, it was beautifully printed to her own design on what she called "bible paper" — a crackly yellow airmail stock. In the same way, *PIW*'s journalistic style reflected her own character: tough, decisive and full of combative common sense.

It was Wanda Jablonski who in 1958 first brought together the oil ministers of Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, and from that meeting sprang the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec). She was thus perfectly placed to report and interpret the long struggles by the oil producers to wrest control of their resources from the American and European companies — and the companies' response. By the time Opec's existence came to the notice of the general public during the so-called oil embargo of 1973-74, Wanda Jablonski's position in the international oil industry was unassailable.

Her friendship with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, was perhaps her strongest resource. He trusted her and often sought her advice; she repaid his confidence with discretion but never acted as his mouthpiece. *PIW*'s readers always knew they were getting "the straight scoop". This was especially important during the 1960s and early 1970s when Yamani painstakingly negotiated the progressive nationalisation of the Arabian American Oil Company with its founders Exxon, Mobil, Chevron and Texaco.

It was one of Jablonski's proudest boasts that she had offended all the big players in the oil industry and that at one

time or another all the majors had cancelled their subscriptions to *PIW*: no light matter for a high-price newsletter with a circulation of only 3,000.

Within a couple of years of its first appearance in 1961 the newsletter had achieved a wide circulation and a reputation for independence and authority in an industry then still dominated by the major oil companies — the so-called "Seven Sisters". That *PIW* retained its early eminence despite all the upheavals of the oil industry over the next 30 years was due largely to the standards set by its publisher.

Wanda Jablonski's secret was the unrivalled breadth of her contacts at the very top of the oil industry. She was friendly with the chairmen of most of the majors, and of many smaller oil companies. And while she admired these men she did not over-estimate their abilities. She understood that in their increasingly complex business oil executives needed concise, accurate and relevant information — particularly about branches of the industry in which they happened not to be expert. Stories were to be written clearly and without jargon, with their essential

parts in boldface. More importantly, from the start of her career she had been interested in the aspirations of the emerging oil producers whose industries were then controlled by the oil majors. Her sympathetic approach gained her the friendship of Perez Alfonso, the oil minister of Venezuela, as well as Sheikh Yamani's predecessor, Abdullah al-Tariki, enabling her to bring the two men together and thus facilitate the formation of Opec.

After Yamani's long reign as Saudi oil minister ended in 1986 Jablonski delegated the management of *PIW* to her journalists, although she retained ownership as well as ultimate control. This was an unsatisfactory arrangement, which led eventually to a walkout by nearly all of the staff and the return in dramatic circumstances of the redoubtable founder. At the age of 68 Wanda Jablonski worked gruelling hours with little help to keep *PIW* afloat long enough to sell it to a new and sympathetic management.

Wanda Mary Jablonski was the only child of a prominent Polish geologist and a distant cousin of the present Pope. She had an adventurous childhood, accompanying her parents to the swamps and deserts of the oil industry's frontiers. In 1938, she went to the United States, graduating from Cornell University in 1942. After the second world war, she settled in New York, where she established her name as an oil expert on the *Journal of Commerce*.

PIW made Wanda Jablonski a wealthy woman. Her reputation for meanness sprang from her tough attitude towards journalistic expenses; in fact she gave most of her many millions to medical and other charities. In her last years she worked as a volunteer at a New York cancer hospital, where her munificence had earned her the unique privilege of continuing her 60-a-day cigarette habit, albeit in a room on her own.

Her three marriages ended in divorce.

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University news

Oxford
The university is to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law on Sir Run Run Shaw, President of the Shaw Brothers Association and benefactor of social, medical, educational and artistic activities, mainly in China and South-East Asia. The award is subject to approval by Congregation.

Two years ago the Shaw Foundation pledged £10million to Oxford to establish an Institute of Chinese Studies.

Elections
ALL SOULS COLLEGE Post-doctoral research fellowships. From October: Colin Craig Kidd, BA, MA (Cambridge) (All Souls College); Mark Anthony Cutler, BA, PhD (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge).

Durham
Appointments
LECTURERS: Dr Raymond Wilson (Pteridology); Miss Elizabeth Ashton (Education); Ms Linda Burton (Cellulose); Dr Martha Clemenwell Young (Scholarship); Dr Ian Paul Roberts (Sociology and social policy).

London
King's College
Professor J. F. Urr, QC, Director of the Centre of Construction Law, has been appointed Nash professor of engineering law by London University.

Birmingham
Dr Jeffrey Bale, senior lecturer, Leeds University, has been appointed to the chair of environmental biology, from June.

Dr Christopher Ham, fellow in health policy and management, King's Fund College, has been appointed to the chair of health policy and management, from last December.

APPRECIATIONS

Maureen Walker

MAUREEN Walker (obituary, February 1) was a rare person. As one friend put it: "There was not a trace of cynicism in her, something special in the newspaper world." Universally liked by the many who knew her, she never had a bad word to say about anyone. Working alongside her and commissioning her in the last few years was an inspiration. She was skilled in the seductive art of putting across ideas in a visual way. She worked with photographers, composing pictures to create particular moods, to bring out the charm of everyday objects, to celebrate colour and pattern.

At the scruffy old *Sunday Times* building where she

worked before the move to Wapping, its worn carpets and harsh fluorescent lights so different from her own careful concern for making places glow with warmth and personality, she seemed too gentle for the world of office politics. But she was tough enough to float through the hysteria of the design world with her own view of things intact.

She often used her own house, a comfortable mixture of the inexpensive and the well-designed, to try out new thoughts or to transform a seemingly disparate and ordinary collection of objects. This straightforward unflamboyant approach provided a bedrock from which came a steady flow of innovative ideas and meant she got the best out of the people she worked with.

Sarah Miller

Lord Rootes

THE second Lord Rootes (obituary, January 17) was present at one of the turning points of history. In 1937, Geoffrey Rootes was a young man helping his father, the master salesman and company head, Billy Rootes, on a business trip to Singapore; he handed his dad a cable from the Air Ministry in London saying that their meeting with the heads of the other motor car manufacturers (Rootes having been absent) to persuade them to add aero engine production lines to their own engine lines had been a flop and met with complete refusal. "The bloody bastards!" shouted Billy, flew back to London, twisted his fellow manufacturers' arms, and got them to agree (as with

Lyndon Johnson, few could withstand Billy Rootes's powers of persuasion). It is highly probable that if he had not, Hitler would have won the war.

Alistair Kyle



DAVID LINDUP

David Lindup, orchestra leader and composer, died on January 7 aged 63. He was born on May 10, 1928.

DAVID Lindup was a prolific arranger and orchestra leader whose work covered the fields of jazz, television, film and light entertainment. He was best known for his collaborations with the jazz saxophonist John Dankworth.

He was the chief arranger for the Johnny Dankworth Orchestra, the most innovative British big band of the Fifties and Sixties. Employing idiosyncratic and brittle combinations of saxophones and brass, the orchestra enjoyed success with short, pop-influenced pieces as well as more ambitious suites such as *What The Dickens!* Lindup also played an important role in Dankworth's music for cinema, providing orchestrations for the themes in Joseph Losey's film *The Servant* and John Schlesinger's *Darling*. Lindup was born in Worthing and began his career as a saxophonist, touring as a member of a dance band until developing fully his work as an orchestra leader. His

ability to produce well-crafted work at short notice made him much in demand in television and he was for many years associated with the television network ATV's staff orchestra led by the drummer Jack Parnell.

Lindup's ATV assignments covered many areas from quiz games to variety galas and the hugely successful *Muppet Show*. As principal orchestrator on the *Muppets*, Lindup was frequently allowed only one day in which to write orchestrations for the week's programme. In order to meet the deadline he would often work through the night, snatching a few hours sleep in a dressing room.

Lindup also worked with the musical director Ronnie Hazellhurst, and arranged pieces for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. His work for NYJO included *But No Buts and Ready Or Not*. He continued to be active in the cinema, frequently working with the American trombonist and arranger Nat Peck.

David Lindup leaves a widow, Cynthia, and five children, two from a previous marriage.

FEB 4 ON THIS DAY 1920

Flying time today from London would be counted in fewer hours than it was then expected to take days from Cairo. The likelihood of a forced descent among cannibals or "mysterious dwarfs" has also been much reduced.

EXPLORATION FROM THE AIR

With the assistance of the Air Ministry and the cooperation of Messrs Vickers Ltd, *The Times* has been able to arrange for a flight from Cairo to Cape Town.

The purpose is to make a definite scientific exploration and to test the practical utility of the Cape to Cairo air route. Thus the flight will not be a race or a merely spectacular performance, but a serious attempt to show whether Africa can be traversed easily and safely from end to end by proper aircraft in ordinary conditions, and a pioneer effort in exploration from the air.

For this purpose Dr Peter Chalmers Mitchell, CBE, a member of the staff of *The Times*, and a man of high scientific attainments, is being sent as passenger and observer on the machine. The machine itself is a Vickers-Vimy commercial aeroplane, adapted for the Vickers bomber for peace services. It is fitted with two Rolls-Royce "Eagle" engines of 350 hp each, producing a cruising speed of 85 to 90 miles an hour.

According to the plans already laid down, the route to be flown from Heliopolis is 5,206 miles in length and the flight may last 12 or 14 days. Apart from the starting-point there are 23 landing-grounds and 19 emergency landing-grounds. Of these Abercorn and Broken Hill are 444 miles apart with only one emergency landing-ground at mile 241, and Moongalla and Jinja on the

Victoria Nyanza are 344 miles apart with an emergency landing place at mile 231. The preparation of these landing-places, accumulation of petrol and other stores have taken a year to complete.

The journey by air from Cairo to the Cape gives opportunities for romantic, if unpleasant, episodes almost as vivid and varied as those written in serial form for the delectation of boys. If the travellers avoid some of the discomforts of ordinary travel in Africa by remaining at a cool altitude during the heat of the day, and flying over, instead of trudging through, thorn-brake or swampy swamp, they incur others.

They must land before night-fall, perhaps at an emergency ground which has become overgrown since it was cleared. There may be no ground-staff at these emergency landing-places, and the unwilling air-men may well disturb a family of lions or an army of warrior ants. The least divergence from the course, or an unexpected leak of petrol, may make necessary a descent in the dominions of a cannibal king or a village of mysterious dwarfs. Perhaps the landing will be on an island in a fierce river, or into a swamp, alive with repulsive and underfed mammals, or in one of those places where Sir H. Rider Haggard's stories of African adventure are staged.

Africa is not yet surveyed. One cannot see far through elephant-grass 20ft high or in a forest into which the sunlight cannot penetrate. The enterprise about to be undertaken is, apart from its scientific, commercial, and Imperial aspects, a very great adventure.

Twenty years ago, on February 8, 1900, Captain E. S. Grogan arrived in Cairo, being, as far as it is known, the first man to have traversed the greater part of the journey from Cape Town on foot or by canoe and then in the space of about 15 months. Today the last preparations are complete for the first attempt to perform the same journey by aeroplane.

Gold mace for the Queen that will be no bauble

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AMONG the many gifts she will doubtless receive to mark her 40 years on the throne, the Queen is to be presented with a solid gold mace to symbolise her position as Head of the Commonwealth. Fashioned from precious metal and jewels drawn from a number of member states, including Wales, the mace will be laid before the Queen on those occasions when she presides at a formal Commonwealth function.

Not that there are too many of those. The Queen studiously avoids taking any direct part in the biennial Commonwealth heads of government meeting, although she does see prime ministers in private audience, and holds a banquet. She also attends an annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey. Officials at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London admitted yesterday that they were still working out the protocol of when the mace, which will come with a stout English oak carrying case, should be produced.

Presenting a mace to the Commonwealth, a body which has survived more than

four decades without any kind of regalia at all, was the idea of the Royal Anniversary Trust, the semi-official organisation charged with coordinating low-key celebrations of the monarch's milestone.

Given that the Commonwealth is not the Empire, and that Britain is merely one among 50 member states, the design of the mace may prove controversial, as its most prominent feature is the royal arms of the United Kingdom which surmount it. Robin Gill, chief executive of the Trust, said yesterday that the arms were those of the Queen herself, and not those of the nation.

Insurance experts say that the mace, 105cms in length, weighing several kilos and topped with an oval cabochon ruby, will probably have an insurance value of about £250,000. Money has been raised mainly from corporate sponsorship in Britain. It has been designed, and is currently being made, by Gerald Benney, a leading British goldsmith whose previous commissions include maces for Leicester University and the Institute of Gynaecologists of New Zealand.

The mace will be presented to the Queen during a television spectacular at Earl's Court in October, one of the promised highlights of her 40th anniversary celebrations.

To accompany the mace, the Commonwealth Secretariat will also be presented with 50 gold-plated goblets, one for each member state and each bearing the crest of a member nation, to be used at formal banquets. The goblets represent a quarter of the earth's entire population, which if India and Bangladesh left the Commonwealth would be reduced to an infinitely tinier fraction.

The mace will be presented to the Queen during a television spectacular at Earl's Court in October, one of the promised highlights of her 40th anniversary celebrations.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, yesterday warmly welcomed the promised regalia. "The Commonwealth has a special affection for the Queen," he said.

The real reason, however, may be that a mace will help distinguish the old British Commonwealth from the newer Commonwealth of Independent States, which has no regalia at all.

Maxwell told he must answer questions

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

KEVIN Maxwell has been refused permission to appeal to the House of Lords over last week's decision by the Court of Appeal that he must answer questions about the fate of the £400 million missing from Maxwell company pension funds.

Mr Maxwell will now be interrogated by liquidators of the pension company funds in a two-day private session in the High Court at the end of the week.

A committee of three law lords, which sat in private, rejected a petition from Mr Maxwell's solicitors for leave to appeal. His solicitors had asked that the petition be handled urgently.

Mr Maxwell had been insisting that he has a right to silence to avoid the risk of self-incrimination, but the Court of Appeal last week decided that insolvency laws denied him the privilege. The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the disappearance of the pension funds.

The decision means that on Wednesday Mr Maxwell must hand over an affidavit on all the dealings at Bishopsgate Investment Management, the company which managed most of the Maxwell companies' pension funds and where he was a director. This will be followed by a court examination on Thursday and Friday.

Robson Rhodes, Bishopsgate Investment Management's liquidator, is particularly interested to gather information on a series of transactions which removed a large part of the pension fund assets.

Insurers have meanwhile confirmed that they will not pay out on a £20 million policy on the late Robert Maxwell unless his companies can provide evidence that his death at sea was either accidental or murder.

The insurers have met accountants from Price Waterhouse, the administrator of Maxwell Communication Corporation, and told them they need proof that his death did not occur through natural causes or suicide. An independent pathologist's report on the body was inconclusive.

Any money raised from the claim would be used to repay some of the Maxwell empire's massive bank debts.



Appeal with a bang: Peter Scott, signalman for the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, awaiting the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Brian Jenkins, aboard HMS Norfolk in the Pool of London yesterday. Sir Brian arrived by launch to start an appeal marking the 75th anniversary of the King George's Fund for Sailors, by firing two 19th century cannons normally used to start Cowes events

Menem opens Nazi files

Continued from page 1
public signing ceremony. This is the debt Argentina is paying back.

Jose Luis Manzano, the interior minister, said yesterday that Argentina admitted Nazis with "real documentation" after the war, but there was no attempt to cover this up. President Menem's decree opens secret police and intelligence files for consultation by historians and the public. Among those to be made available are files on Bormann, Mengele and Walter Kutschmann.

Señor Manzano said the archives will show that the government of President Peron, from 1946-1955, was the first to admit Nazis. They continued coming in for the next three years.

Eichmann and Mengele, two of the most notorious war criminals, arrived in Argentina with fake passports sent by the Red Cross. The archives are said to include evidence that Mengele, the former camp doctor at Auschwitz, was given Argentine docu-

ments in his real name by using a birth certificate obtained through the German consulate in Buenos Aires.

The decision has been widely welcomed by Jews and historians. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal centre in Jerusalem, said they were "very excited" by the decision.

It would help to reveal the escape route taken by many fleeing Nazis, and would enable investigators to close the files on those listed as having died. "I would not be sur-

prised if we found some new names," he said.

David Goldemberg, head of the Delegation of Argentina Israeli Associations, said that the documents in the archives should be known so that those responsible for giving asylum to Nazis could face the consequences.

There are no accurate estimates of how many war crimes suspects are thought to have escaped to Argentina. The likelihood that Bormann went there, however, is now seen as small.

Labour scorns hint on grammar schools

Continued from page 1
only 13 per cent thought they had improved.

Shortages of books, the poor state of many school buildings and large class sizes were rated as more important issues to be tackled than the subjects of recent government initiatives on teacher education, coursework and testing.

Mr Clarke's own performance as education secretary was rated as poor by more

than half of the 966 people interviewed and by 60 per cent of parents.

The poll, conducted three weeks ago, showed that most people believed that reading standards had fallen, and 40 per cent held the same view about mathematics.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said in launching a critique of government policy, *Pay as you Learn*: "Neither teaching standards nor children's innate ability have fallen, but in the last four years we have had constant experimentation and chaos. Schools have received an average of one document for every week of every term on the national curriculum, many contradicting previous instructions.

"The consequence of that is that teachers are now spending less time teaching the basics than they were before."

Selection debate, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Ashdown wants 50p on petrol price

Continued from page 1
moved to centre stage for the day with their leader taking up radical positions on the environment and electoral reform.

Mr Ashdown called for a phased increase in the price of petrol at the rate of 10p a year for five years to cut carbon dioxide emissions. The Liberal Democrat leader also made clear last night that he

was prepared to take a tough line in the backstage power-broking that would ensue if, as the polls suggest, the election ends inconclusively.

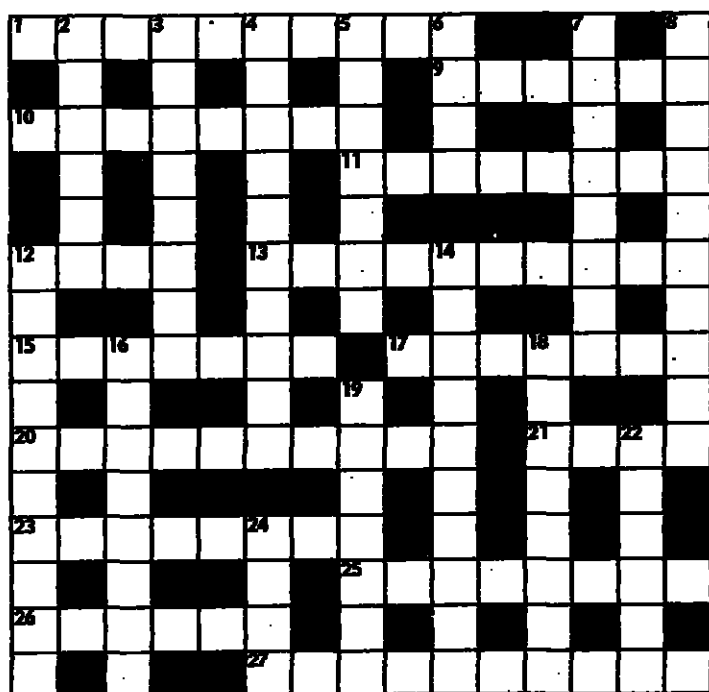
Putting an end to weeks of speculation, he said that he would force a second general election immediately if neither of the main parties would meet his demands for the introduction of proportional representation before the sub-

sequent election and an agreed programme for four years of government.

Foot attack: Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, speaking in the Commons last night, rejected as "one of the most shameful acts of any politician" the allegations concerning Mr Kinnoch in *The Sunday Times*.

Suared by sneezers, page 12

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,832



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

ENATATION
a. Escape by swimming
b. Being last born
c. Striving with difficulty

MOBBY
a. The serum at the Eton Wall game
b. A twopenny cap
c. Sweet potato brandy

CHIROSPASM
a. Ear wax
b. A period of revolution
c. Writer's cramp

RECLIVATE
a. Signoid or S-shaped
b. Recovering after sickness
c. Anywhere in heraldry

Answers on Life and Times 13

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within M4 & S. Cross)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-east England	743
South-east England	744
North-west England	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain. Central and south-east Scotland will have rain at times with snow on hills, slowly spreading towards the north-east. Shetland will remain showery. England and Wales will have rain at times with some snow over the Pennines. Dull with drizzle on western coasts and hills. Winds easing in north-east, but strong in west. Outlook: patchy rain in east at first. Coastal drizzle in west. Mid.

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Slippery slope for the poodle factor

After his meeting last week with Boris Yeltsin, and his chairing the UN Security Council in New York, the prime minister came down to the House of Commons yesterday to tell us about it.

Your sketchwriter has never heard anything of substance mentioned in statements like this. The first version will have been cleared with a dozen Foreign Office departments, whose job it is to remove anything interesting. The revised draft will have been passed to the Ministry of Defence, in case the FO has missed something which might raise an eyebrow. On ground which has been given so thorough a going over by apparatchiks, grass never grows again.

So I waited, pen poised, for the response from backbenchers. Over the years, these statements have been the occasion for a display of ritual adoration from the Tory benches. During Mrs Thatcher's time it reached such a frenzy that backbenchers dropped the pretence of asking a question when their leader returned from abroad, competing only in the extravagance of their praise, while she showed her holiday snaps.

How, then, would Mr Major fare? We were within weeks of a general election. What better opportunity for his MPs to tell the nation how they loved him? David Howell (C. Guildford) started well. He wanted to congratulate the PM on "his energy and skill". With Mrs T it was always "courage and resolution", but Mr Howell was ringing the changes.

The next Tory was Cyril Townsend, who wanted to ask about "structural reform" at the UN. Fair enough: but where was the compliment? It was plain that Townsend approved of Mr Major's efforts, but surely he was expected to spell it out. He didn't. Unaccountably, he actually asked a question, then, even more unaccountably, he sat down. Mr Major answered him. I wrote "FOR-GOT to compliment PM".

Then came Terence Higgins (Worthing), another fan. No compliment, just a question. This was odd. Still, Julian Brazier (Canterbury) was on his feet. This young pup would surely oblige.

No compliment. Curiouser and curiously. Michael Mates (E Hampshire) — no compliment. Loyal Sir Peter

er Blaker (Blackpool S), who plainly approved of Mr Major's work — no compliment: and I must tell you that from Nigel Forman (Carshalton & Wallington) and Michael Jopling (Westmoreland & Lonsdale) there came practical support, but no personal flattery.

Ken Warren (Hastings & Rye) was good enough to call the PM "robust". Tony Nelson (Chichester) found his initiative "historic". And John Wilkinson (Ruislip) did use the word "congratulate". But from Eitham, Solihull, Lancashire and Ealing came the likes of Messrs Bottomley, Taylor, Hind and Greenway to support, but not to flatter. Beef, but no laud.

In total, twenty Tory backbenchers rose to question Mr Major, but there were only two full-blown compliments plus two half-tributes. Three out of twenty: or what I call a 15 per cent poodle factor.

I turned *Hansard* back to 2 April 1987, when, two months before a general election, Mrs Thatcher returned from a trip to the Soviet Union.

Twelve backbenchers questioned her. Francis Pym kicked off with "universally admired", and Ken Warren chimed in with "outstanding success". Julian Amery "congratulated" her "strong line", while Robert Cranbourne offered the "gratitude of the oppressed Afghan people". Norman St John Stevas widened this to "people throughout this world".

Sir John Biggs-Davison "applauded" while David Crouch "admired". Robert Jackson "congratulated" and Sir Fergus Montgomery sneaked to her on how her enemies had made "vicious personal attacks" in her absence. That adds up to nine. Three Tories, Sir Frederick Bennett, Sir John Osborne and Peter Temple Morris, failed to kick shoe. Nine out of 12 delivered.

A 75 per cent poodle factor, as compared to Mr Major's 15 per cent. What a change is wrought!

Dennis Skinner growled angrily throughout. He had been in a bad mood since civil service questions. Here's why...

Mr Dennis Skinner: to ask the minister for the civil service: How many civil servants in employment at the latest date: (a) men or (b) women?

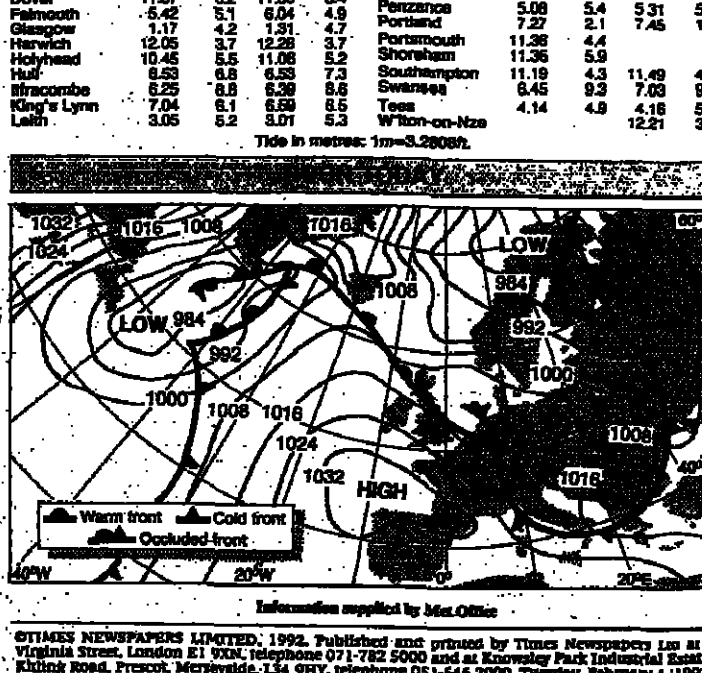
Mr Timothy Renton: All of them.

MATTHEW PARRIS



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Thorn buys another US rental group

By Gillian Bowditch

THORN EMI, the diversified electricals group, which last week announced that it was leaving electrical retailing in the United Kingdom with the loss of 800 jobs, is spending \$55 million on another rent-to-own company in America.

Thorn is buying Remco America, which is based in Houston, Texas. The business comprises 64 stores sited principally in Houston, Dallas, Chicago and North Carolina. Last year, Remco America had a turnover of \$69 million. Colin Southgate, the Thorn EMI chairman, and his board are not releasing figures, but said Remco's profits more than cover the interest charge on the deal.

Thorn shares, which rose 15p on Friday to 841p on the news that the group was leaving electrical retailing in Britain, fell 15p to 826p.

The acquisition will complement Rent-A-Center, Thorn's existing American rental business, which has approximately 1,000 shops and which Thorn bought in 1987.

Thorn says the acquisition of Remco is strategically valuable as it secures a strong, well-established second brand with which to segment

the American market in order to increase market share and overall profitability.

Two years ago, the group started to build Thorn International Rentals, its own second brand. The 30 stores trading under that name will be incorporated into either Remco or Rent-A-Center.

A spokesman for the group said the deal had no bearing on the group's decision to phase out Rumbelows, its British retail chain, at a cost of about £45 million.

The American rental market operates in a different way from that in the United Kingdom. A large proportion of the American population has difficulty obtaining credit, and rent-to-own packages allow them to rent products and have the opportunity of owning them at the end of a set period, typically 14 to 16 months. Rent-A-Center rents jewellery and furniture as well as electrical appliances.

Mike Metcalf, chief executive of Thorn EMI Rental, said: "We believe that there are substantial growth opportunities for Remco as a second brand alongside Rent-A-Center. Thorn EMI is delighted to have retained Remco's management to develop this potential."



Strategic move: Colin Southgate is building Thorn EMI's US market share

Abbey to start share dealing

By Lindsay Cook, Money Editor

ABBEY National is to set up a telephone and postal share dealing service and to take its own share register in-house.

The former building society starts recruitment in Sheffield this week for 200 staff for the service.

Abbey, which was floated in 1989, says it wants to provide the full range of personal financial services to its 10 million customers. Abbey was

chosen by the government as one of the eight share shops for the sale of the second tranche of BT. The new service is intended to compete with NatWest, Barclays and Sharelink.

Abbey's share dealing service is currently offered via Sharelink. Its own share dealing will be offered later this year from Sheffield. The bank will also offer employee share

schemes. Abbey had offered these as a building society, but on conversion to a bank was prevented from doing so. The 1990 Budget opened the way for banks to offer such schemes.

Abbey says its decision to take control of its own share register from Lloyds Bank and to offer a registration service was a natural development.

GPG fails to meet exchange deadline

By Neil Bennett

BANKING CORRESPONDENT
GPG, the investment group run by Sir Ron Brierley, could face a reprimand from the New Zealand stock exchange for the late publication of its annual report.

The company has told shareholders that it will not send out its accounts for last year until February 21. While this meets the deadline for publication in British law, which is March 31, the New Zealand authorities demanded that the report should reach shareholders by the end of January.

The accounts will be posted to shareholders on February 21. GPG has asked the New Zealand exchange to waive the rule, but the exchange has refused. The exchange has taken no action as yet but may decide to admonish the company or even suspend its listing as a punishment.

The New Zealand exchange is vital to GPG since it is the only place where the shares are traded. In London, they are suspended at 23p.

GPG says the delay was caused by its decision to use the new British accounting standard, the Financial Reporting Exposure Draft, or Fred. This stipulated that there should be no extraordinary items and that all figures from discontinued activities should be separated from continuing businesses. Blake Nixon, an executive director, said changes had taken longer than expected.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shield Group forced to restate accounts

THE Financial Reporting Review Panel has forced Shield Group, the ailing property developer and estate agent, to restate its accounts for the year to March 31, 1991 in its interim statement for the six months to September 30. In its 1990-1 accounts, Shield attributed £3.5 million of property and other provisions made during the year to the previous year, attracting a second successive qualification from Sny Hayward, its auditors. Under accounting standards, provisions should have been booked to the year in which they were made.

Shield also announced a rise in interim losses from £955,000 to £1.34 million, making a deficit of 17.2p (13.2p) per share. There are again no interim or preference dividends.

APG in receivership

ALLIED Partnership Group (APG), the environmental contractor and asset rental and distribution company, has been placed in administrative receivership. Shares in the company were suspended at 94p last Thursday. The receivers were appointed to APG by Humberlyde Industrial Finance, a leasing company. APG made an unsuccessful court attempt to have the appointment set aside on Friday. The company said Dew Group, its environmental contracting division, was not in receivership and was trading profitably. All subsidiaries except Allied Partners Group, an intermediate holding company, and APG Finance, continued to trade normally. Last June, APG raised £7.44 million through an offer and placing of shares. The company made a pre-tax loss of £487,000 in the six months to June 30.

Waterglade waiting

WATERGLADE International Holdings, the property company, said yesterday it had not been told the identity of the buyer of 1 million of its shares sold by the DRG pension fund last week. Ronald Nathan, chairman, said the buyer of the 4.6 per cent stake was now days late in notifying Waterglade. "All we know is that the shares were bought by an offshore agency broker," Mr Nathan said. The shares reacted relatively calmly, rising 4p to 3p. In the year to March 31, 1991, Waterglade made a pre-tax loss of £5.4 million.

Seton buys Pharmalab

SETON Healthcare, the branded healthcare products and sports equipment group, has spent £3.19 million acquiring Pharmalab, owner of the Earex and Dermidex over-the-counter brands. Pharmalab's products include Earex ear drops, which are used for the treatment of ear wax, Earex ear plugs, which are used when swimming, and Dermidex dermatological cream, which is used for the treatment of a range of skin irritations. These products achieved a gross profit of £765,000 in the year to December 31.

Lilleshall to expand

LILLESBALL, the industrial distribution, engineering and building products group, is buying Bradgrange Packaging for about £660,000. Bradgrange, a maker of plastic stoppers for the toiletries, chemicals and food sectors that is part of the English Glass Company, employs 40 people at Leek, Staffordshire, and had a turnover of £1.65 million last year. The company is being bought by Lilleshall's Ray Engineering subsidiary.

Blue Circle head to go

JAMES McColgan, the group managing director of Blue Circle Industries and one of the best-known names in the building materials field, is retiring at the age of 65 in September. He will be replaced by Keith Orrell-Jones, who for the past two years has overseen Blue Circle's American operations. Arrangements for his succession in America will be made soon. Blue Circle said. Mr McColgan has worked with the group for most of his working life. Mr Orrell-Jones joined in January 1980 from ARC, the aggregates business, where he was chief executive.

Seacon advances 5%

IMPROVED market share and higher interest income helped Seacon Holdings, a shipping and transportation group, to a 5.2 per cent rise in full-year profits. The advance was achieved despite deepening recession in many of the USM-quoted company's markets. In the year to September 30, pre-tax profits climbed from £1.58 million to £1.66 million on turnover up from £17.3 million to £17.7 million. An increase in the final dividend from 2.3p to 2.7p per share lifts the total for the year from 3.5p to 4.2p. Fully diluted earnings fell from 11.3p to 11.18p per share.

Midland lifts charge

MIDLAND Bank is to increase the annual charge for its Access and Visa credit cards from £10 to £12 from April 8. The bank, which introduced a charge last April, is the first to increase the annual fee. Lloyds Bank has charged £12 since February 1990. National Westminster brought in a similar fee last October. Barclays has charged £8 a year since June 1990. Midland's affinity cards will continue to be free. The bank is reducing the interest rate on its main credit cards from an annual rate of 28.1 per cent to 26.8 per cent.

Scots dig golden seam from Australia to Alaska

Colin Campbell discovers why a 4-million-acre region of America's hostile 49th state is a minefield worth exploring

ALASKA, America's 49th state, is not only a land of snow sleighs, husky dogs, Athabaskan Indians, ice packs and the Arctic circle.

It is a proven and still tempting territory, for a host of metals and minerals, which has caught the eye of a Scottish investment adviser. The latter is also chairman of an Australian mining company planning to explore in an area known as the Doyon Lands, central Alaska, for gold and alloy metals.

William McLucas, managing director of Waverley Asset Management in Edinburgh, was last week made executive chairman of Montague Gold, of Australia, and has negotiated exploration option rights for almost 4.1 million acres in central Alaska.

The land is held by Doyon Limited, one of the 12 native regional corporations set up under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 1971, and which is responsible for creating wealth and employment opportunities for Alaskans.

Mr McLucas said: "To be granted a concession area of over 4 million acres, almost the size of Wales, would cost anywhere between \$10 million and \$15 million in America. Montague Gold has the opportunity to farm into a group of mineral prospects that until recently have been unavailable for gold exploration because of land clo-

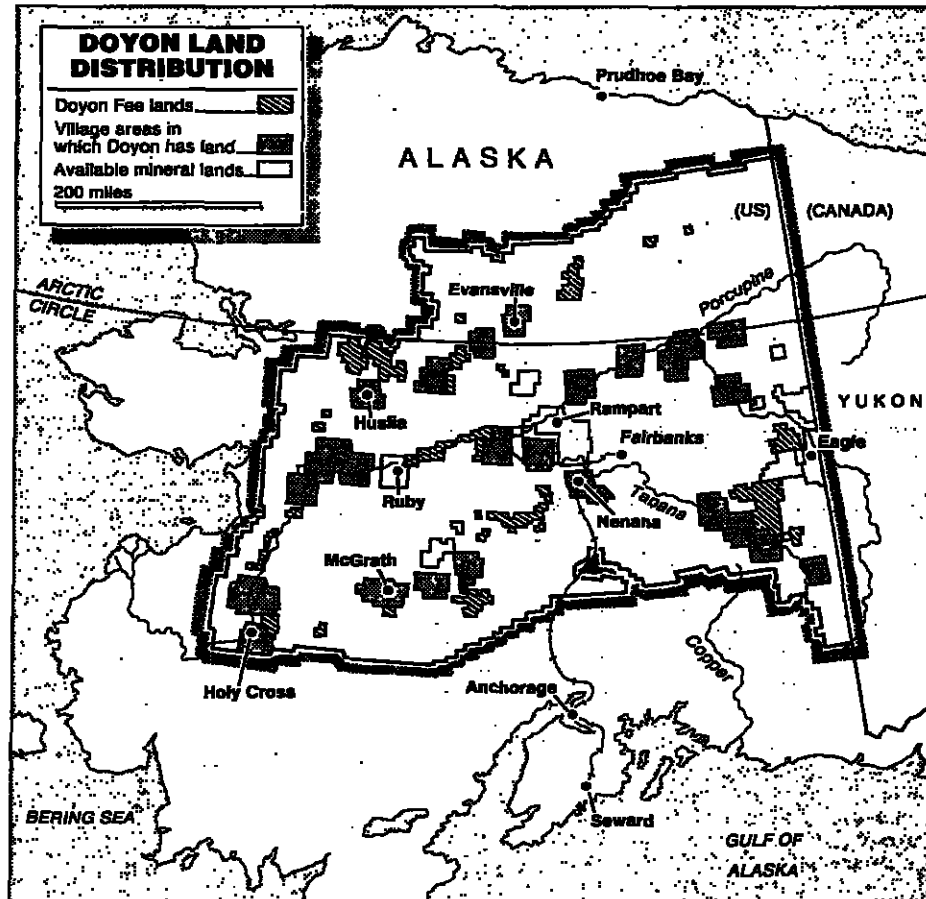
sures or corporate policy." Montague can earn a 50 per cent interest in the rights to lease the Doyon Lands by reimbursing \$350,000 to ASA Inc, the Alaskan exploration company, for money it spent on past exploration, and by committing \$1.44 million for exploration both this year and next, Mr McLucas says.

The Doyon Lands reportedly contain several hundred separate mineral occurrences. The 4.1 million acres under Montague's option contain at least ten separate types of known or potential mineral deposits, ranging from small gold deposits to large base or alloy metal prospects.

The Doyon Lands stretch from Holy Cross in the west to the state line in the east, the other side of which is Klondike in Canada's Yukon Territory.

Mining in Alaska is not a joke. Several mining projects are being developed in the state — Amex Gold this month took over Fairbanks Gold in a \$160 million bid, gaining control of the Fort Knox gold property that is 26 miles by paved road north east of Fairbanks, near the end of the Alaska railroad.

Echo Bay Mines has an 85 per cent interest in the ambitious underground Alaska-Juneau gold project, which in the Thirties was the largest gold mine in North America. Current development



plans for A-J are for a \$275 million development to produce 315,000 ounces of gold a year for Echo Bay's account, over a conservative six-year life estimated for the mine. The company also owns 50 per cent of Alaska's underground Kensington gold project.

Cominco, the Canadian mining group, has sufficient reserves at its Red Dog

zinc/lead mine to last at least 50 years. Red Dog is the world's largest zinc mine.

Environmental considerations in the wake of the 1988 Exxon Valdez oil spillage, and the fierce climatic conditions of the Arctic region, make mining in Alaska a horrendous challenge.

Winter temperatures in Alaska drop to between -40F and -60 F and rise to between

80F and 90F in summer. There can be 21 hours of daylight in the summer, and a mere three hours in the winter.

However, mining men nose out gold wherever it is — in South Africa, Anglo American digs on a daily basis two miles below the earth's surface to win gold out of Western Deep Levels. Miners shovel on through Victoria

Falls-type rain in the hills of Papua New Guinea at the Porgera gold mine. In Chile, the tops of snow-capped mountains are bulldozed to win precious metals.

Montague Gold is likely to farm out part of its concession to help with exploration costs, and will be given access to Doyon Limited's data bank, which contains a wealth of information gathered from earlier exploration activities down the years.

The data base, which was compiled from old workings and at a time when mining knowledge was less extensive, will be used with modern technology to search for other minerals in the Doyon Lands.

Doyon has spent \$3 million out of an estimated \$20 million exploration spend since 1981 on assessing the mineral potential of its lands.

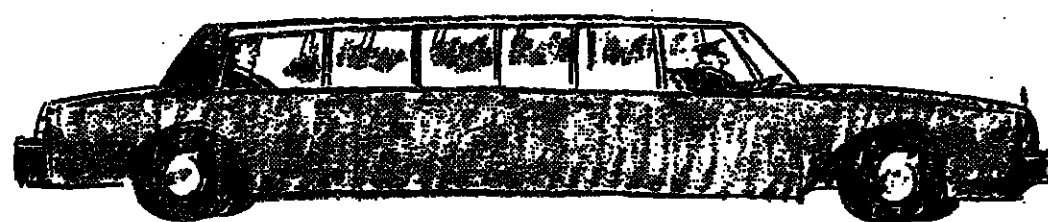
Montague, meanwhile, has agreed to make a \$10,000 annual donation to Doyon Foundation, and to sponsor two Athabaskan Indians at a mainstream American university.

Montague Gold's agreement is subject to contract and the approval of Doyon and regulators within 60 days.

Mr McLucas finds nothing strange about working out of Scotland, being in charge of an Australian gold exploration company, while looking for Alaskan development.

Mr McLucas said: "Exploration companies have to go looking where the minerals are." However, annual general meetings with him presiding as chairman on a snow sleigh somewhere in Alaska are not envisaged.

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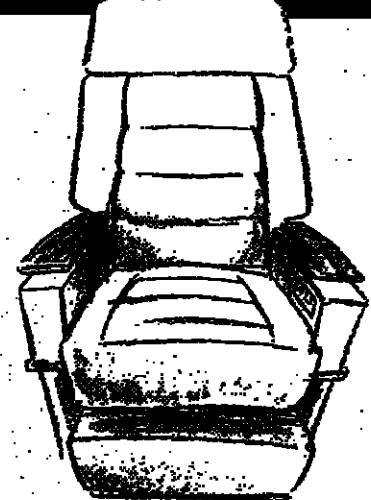
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Societies to reconsider advice funds

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies are to reconsider whether they will make funds available for the Money Advice Trust after meeting Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister.

Yesterday's meeting was called because of the refusal of societies to provide funding for the trust, which was set up in 1990 to channel funds to debt counselling organisations. The intention is to raise £3 million a year by a levy on the lending of banks and building societies. Last year, building societies gave nothing to the trust and pledged only £63,000 directly to debt counselling organisations. They argued that they had improved debt counselling for their own customers and wanted to keep such advice under their control.

Yesterday, representatives of the Halifax, Nationwide, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Bristol & West and Birmingham Midshires met Mr Leigh, Lady Wilcox, the chairman of the National Consumer Council, and Sir George Blunden, chairman of the Money Advice Trust. The trade department said

the hour-long meeting had been "encouraging".

The societies told the minister that they were not keen on a levy on their lending and that they wanted to get personally involved in the sponsorship of counselling. Last month, Nationwide announced that it was pledging £345,000 over three years to the London Money Advice Support Unit. Several large societies, including the Leeds and Cheltenham & Gloucester, chose not to attend the meeting.

The Money Advice Trust's future will be in jeopardy unless more funding can be found. Lenders had been asked to pay £10 for every £1 million lent. Banks gave £88,000 to the trust last year and have pledged a further £175,000. They also put £400,000 into local initiatives and are making secondments worth £450,000 to the trust.

Societies have long been concerned that outside debt counsellors may not place enough emphasis on meeting mortgage payments and are reluctant to help the customers of other lenders.

Invitations to yesterday's meeting were sent to the societies, but the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which played a key part in the setting up of the £750 million mortgage rescue scheme in December, was excluded. That scheme should help to keep up to 20,000 families in their homes. Societies have also improved their own debt counselling services and are sometimes using outside agencies. The extra in-house help is expected to prevent a further 20,000 people from losing their homes this year.

The National Consumer Council has published a report saying that funding for debt counselling must keep pace with the demand for help. The council says that only one person in seven in debt can get help. Many Citizens Advice Bureaux have an initial waiting time of a month before they can see a new client.

Comment, page 21

Security boost for earnings

A fillip from the Gulf war, when commercial clients were keen to increase security around their premises, helped Securiguard Group towards a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the year to November 30.

The rise was ahead of expectations, and the shares rose 17p to 136p. Securiguard, which provides security and cleaning services, is paying an increased final dividend of 5.3p, making a total for the year of 8.5p (8p). Alan Baldwin, chairman, said trading profits from the UK security division were ahead 22 per cent to £3.8 million. UK cleaning and maintenance showed a 16 per cent rise to £1.62 million. The American businesses saw operating profits slip by £400,000 to £1.8 million.

Temps, page 20

De Beers deal with Tanzania

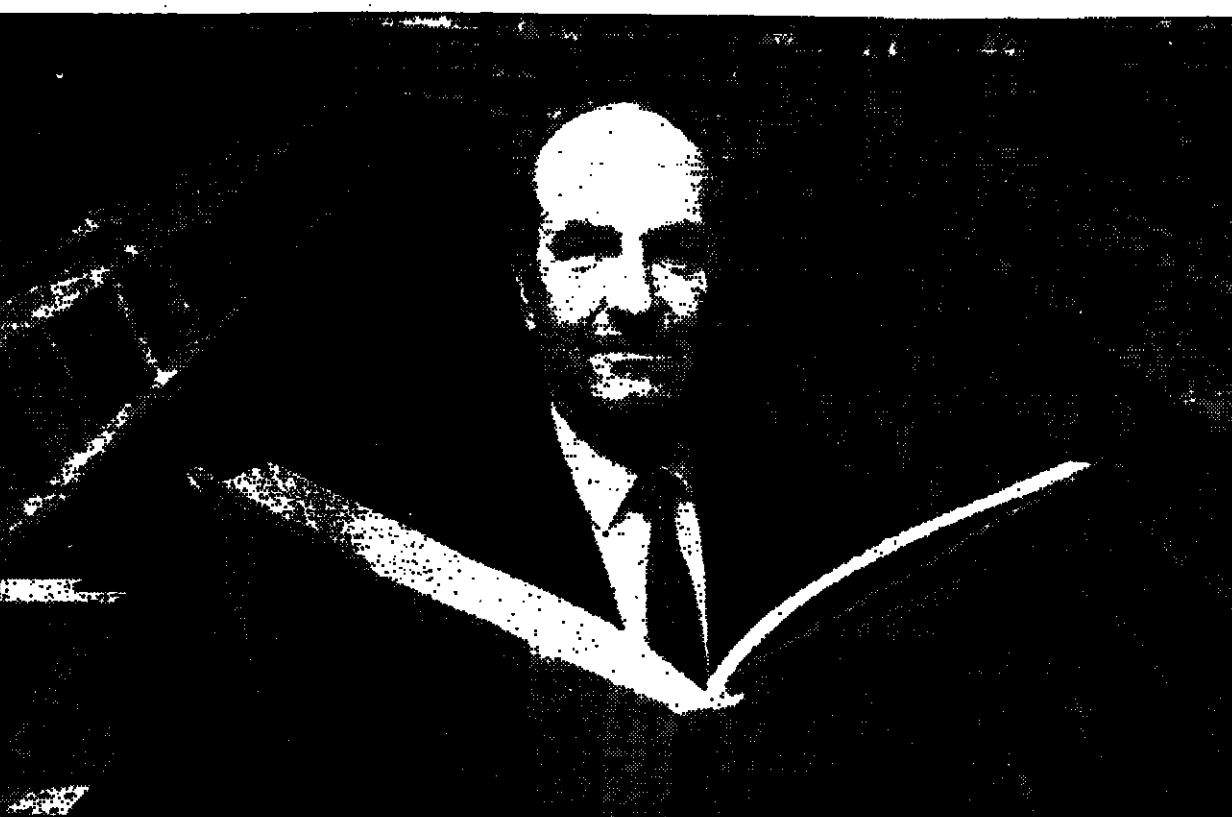
De Beers, the diamond group that has historic links with mining in Tanzania, has signed a prospecting and mining agreement with the Tanzanian government. The agreement, between Willcroft Company, of Bermuda, a subsidiary of De Beers Centenary, and Tanex, grants Tanex a reconnaissance licence for 12 months to delineate target areas by modern exploration techniques. Work will be undertaken in the Mwanza, Shinyanga and Tabora regions.

Willcroft has been a joint venture partner with the Tanzanian government in Williamson Diamonds, a world famous diamond deposit, with a 50 per cent shareholding. Robin Crawford, a director of De Beers Centenary, says the eventual resumption of mining for diamonds will generate foreign exchange for Tanzania and stimulate infrastructure development.

Carlyle bought

Black Arrow Group, an office furniture concern, has acquired Carlyle (Scotland), a Scottish office interiors contractor, from the receiver for about £400,000. Carlyle will be amalgamated with Black Arrow Interiors (Scotland), enabling the group to offer a contracting and partitioning service as well as office furniture.

Early Learning Centres may expand



Time to start a new chapter: Ronald Noel-Paton, managing director, who is eyeing the European market

Shareholders urged to reject unsolicited offer

Petrocon makes £36m bid for James Wilkes

By MATTHEW BOND

PETROCON, the engineering and surveying company, has unveiled a £36.6 million all-share bid for James Wilkes, the conglomerate run by Stephen Hinchcliffe that is based in Sheffield.

Although Petrocon has secured acceptances from 29 per cent of Wilkes' shareholders, the bid met with a cool welcome from Mr Hinchcliffe, who described it as "unsolicited" and urged shareholders not to take any action.

Petrocon already owns a 2.8 per cent stake. A fortnight ago, shares in James Wilkes jumped 30p to 189p on news that the company had received an "unwelcome approach".

Yesterday, the shares closed up 5p to 182p in response to the offer of 13 new Petrocon shares for every three Wilkes shares. With Petrocon's shares unchanged at 46p, the

offer values each Wilkes share at 199.3p.

The Petrocon bid comes three months after Colin Robinson was appointed chairman and chief executive after his purchase of an 8.2 per cent stake in the company.

The bid for Wilkes was accompanied by the news that Petrocon was to pay £2.7 million for Beverley Group, a private engineering company owned by Mr Robinson.

The purchase will be funded by the placing of 5.4 million new Petrocon shares, with some 2.8 million being placed with institutions at 45p.

Mr Robinson is well acquainted with Wilkes, a manufacturer of spark plug electrodes, which is one of Wilkes' principal subsidiaries.

Wilkes bought Floform for £15 million in 1989 from Hollis Industries, whose chief

executive at the time was Mr Robinson.

Mr Robinson said that Floform and many of the other businesses of Wilkes appeared to be in reasonable shape. But he criticised the company's management style, which he said had weakened the group and caused it to lose its way. "The central costs appear to be very high and the gearing is far higher than it ought to be."

Gearing at the last balance sheet date was 108 per cent.

He said the fact that 29.1 per cent of shareholders had accepted Petrocon's offer showed the extent to which shareholders were disillusioned with Wilkes' management.

He pointed out that Petrocon had been able to buy its stake for an average of 140p a share, compared to the 205p issue price of Wilkes' last right issue in November 1989.

JOHN Menzies, the Edinburgh retail group, is considering extending its Early Learning Centre format into Europe, but plans to do so cautiously. The group operates 169 centres, excluding the American operation.

Ronald Noel-Paton, the group's managing director, said the ELC concept was holding up well in the recession despite a competitive market. Sales at the chain increased by 11 per cent.

"I think we have found a niche in the toy market. The products are aimed at children aged up to eight and are specifically designed to encourage their development. Our experience has been that people are not cutting back on spending which benefits children," he said.

Menzies yesterday reported a fall in trading profits for the six months to November 2 from £6.7 million to £4.5 million, on turnover of £489.3 million (£451 million). Pre-tax profits rose from £200,000 to £2.1 million. Earnings per share were 1.4p (0.9p) and the interim dividend is 3.6p (3.4p).

The group's chairman, John Menzies, said: "Results for the second half year will include the important Christmas period. Sales were broadly as expected." The shares fell 31p to 429p.

Temps, page 20

High jinks at launch of new City exchange

By JON ASHWORTH

LONDON'S new futures and options exchange at Cannon Bridge burst into life yesterday with the clang of a bell and a blur of hand-signals from 1,200 traders who packed the floor.

Pen Kent, an associate director of the Bank of England and a driving force behind the new £30 million market, ushered in the first day of trading at exactly 8.35 am. A commotion broke out on the Footsie options pitch as dealers entered into the spirit of the occasion.

"We now have one of the most modern derivatives markets in the world," said Mr Kent, who chaired the action group that investigated the merger of the two financial markets. "We have some of the best equipment and shiny gadgets to make this market a success."

Last Friday, traders' options dealers carried out their final trades on the old stock exchange floor at Throgmorton Street, ending 190 years of City history.

Yesterday, they were trading back-to-back with futures dealers for the first time as part of the new enlarged trading floor. What a floor it is. A

thousand television screens line the walls and cluster over the heads of the dealers as they scurry between their booths and the pits.

Radio crackle and buzz with orders as brokers feed commands down the line.

The 565 trading booths contain 440 dealer board consoles and around 3,000 lines, making this the largest BT digital dealer board system in the world.

Futures dealers have had three weeks to adjust to their new surroundings. The London international financial futures exchange completed its move from the Royal Exchange on December 16.

Michael Jenkins, chief executive designate of the London international financial futures and options exchange — dubbed Life-LTOM — joined Tony de Guinand, managing director of the London traded options market, to herald the new era in London's trading history. The two markets are due to complete their long-delayed merger on March 23. Mr de Guinand then becomes finance director.

The Queen will inaugurate the new market next Tuesday.

Marsh pays \$105m for French broker

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MARSH & McLennan, the world's largest insurance broker, has completed its network of subsidiaries in the European Community with the \$105 million acquisition of the two-thirds stake in Faugere & Jutheau S.A., France's biggest broker, that it did not already own.

The deal cements a relationship that dates back to 1969 when Faugere & Jutheau became Marsh & McLennan's correspondent company in France. Marsh & McLennan took its original one-third stake in 1973.

Robert Husson, the president directeur générale and controlling shareholder of Faugere & Jutheau SA, said he had decided to sell because

of the increasing global integration of the insurance broking market. "If you want to play with the biggest in your industry you have to be international or you are lost," he said.

Faugere & Jutheau SA, which deals almost exclusively with commercial risks, has 14 offices in France, Monaco and Spain. It accounts for Fr550 million of the Fr665 million gross revenues of Faugere & Jutheau Group, which also includes 13 offices in French-speaking Africa. The African interests will be held by a holding company jointly owned by Marsh & McLennan, the family interest of Robert Husson and a possible third party.

Eurotunnel will seek damages

By MATTHEW BOND

EUROTUNNEL, developer of the Channel tunnel, has confirmed that it is planning to claim substantial damages from the government for what it alleges are significant modifications to its original concession agreement and for the favourable treatment it says is given to cross-Channel ferry operators.

The company has placed an approximate value of £100 million on the cost of the additional safety measures that have been required by the government, over and above those in the original concession agreement.

But the damages relating to the favourable treatment of the ferry operators could be far larger, especially the claim relating to duty free sales.

Eurotunnel, whose chief executive is Sir Alastair Morton, said duty-free sales provided the ferry companies with about £100 million a year of profit and were effectively a subsidy. Although passengers using the Channel tunnel shuttle trains will be able to buy duty free goods in the terminal buildings, not many are expected to interrupt their journeys to do so.

On safety, Eurotunnel said the ferry operators were again being treated favourably



Morton: duty free claim

because their new safety measures did not have to be in operation until 1999, some six years after the tunnel opens for business with its safety measures fully in place.

The last area of dispute concerns the plans by P&O and Sealink, the cross-channel ferry operator, to merge their operations to provide effective competition to tunnel traffic. P&O last month said it would freeze its ferry fares if it was allowed to move to an early operational merger with Sealink. Eurotunnel believes such an early merger could give the ferry operators up to two years' advantage, before the tunnel is running at full capacity in 1994.

Ruddles sale is finalised

By MARTIN WALLER

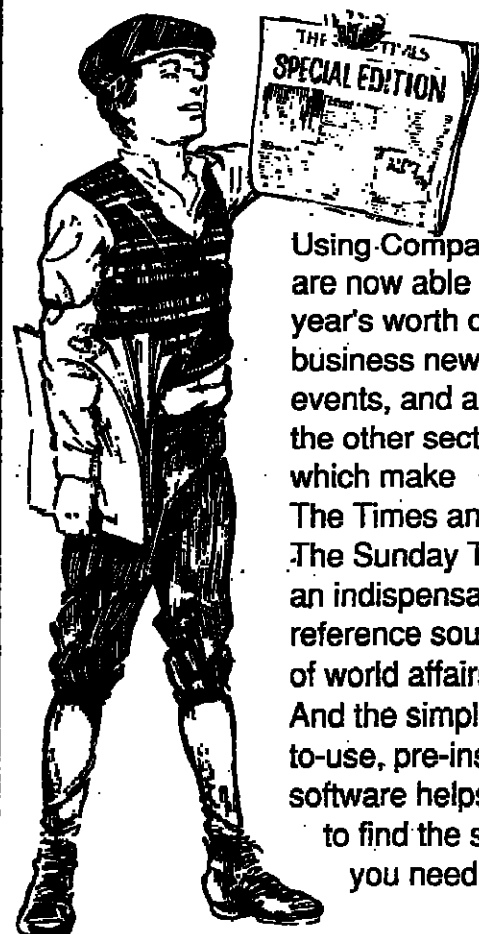
COURAGE has finalised the sale of Ruddles, the British real ale brand, to Grolsch, the Dutch lager group, for a sum believed to be in the region of £40 million.

The business, which employs 127 people at the brewery at Langham, Leicestershire, was bought as part of Courage's 1991 acquisition of the former brewing assets of Grand Metropolitan. GrandMet paid £14.2 million for Ruddles in 1986. Courage will continue to sell the Ruddles Best and Ruddles Country brands in its pubs on a non-exclusive basis under a five-year distribution agreement with the new owners. Grolsch is to continue brewing operations at Langham and will take over sales and distribution to the off-licence trade.

The two companies are talking about closer ties and the distribution of Courage's Foster's lager brand in the Netherlands, with brewing in that country a possibility. Michael Foster, managing director of Courage, said Grolsch's offer was excellent. He added: "There are compelling benefits for Courage, for Grolsch and for Ruddles. Grolsch's distribution in Holland will be a valuable bonus for the Foster's brand."

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Brittan extends his brief to Wall St

At a time when relations between the European Community and America are none too smooth — witness the continuing disputes over the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Airbus and the co-ordination of aid to the former Soviet Union — Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, has added to the tension by firing off an angry letter to Richard Breeden, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sir Leon has caught wind of a green paper in America on securities trading, which proposes new rules demand-

ing that if the shares of any American company are traded outside the American market, then the Securities and Exchange Commission must be informed. The rule would add enormous amounts of paperwork to any large stock exchange where international American companies are traded, and flies in the face of Sir Leon's attempts to free up Community stock markets.

The competition commissioner has responded rather more positively to the latest news from the Basle Group, the board of governors of the Bank for International Set-

tlements that groups Robin Leigh-Pemberton and his European central bank confreres. The group has held protracted discussions over the past three years on how to protect financial markets from the collapse of securities companies, and last week finally decided that the subordinated debt of stockbrokers should be no more than 250 per cent of their equity. Investment banks have given a warning that the new rules could undermine the City's competitiveness; at present, securities firms in London are allowed debt-to-equity ratios of four to one.

But Sir Leon has welcomed the ruling.

In the media sector, the commission has opened an inquiry into the machinations of the German film industry, which under the German Film Industry Support Act allows only Germans to take up key posts, including director, in state-funded films and co-productions. Bonn is fighting to keep the restrictions for another six years, but the commission wants all such bars to the freedom of movement of European workers removed this year.

TOM WALKER

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

Prices drift lower while investors stay on sidelines

THE TIMES

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Preparing for the giveaway

Norman Lamont is preparing the ground for a Budget that could both please the crowd and scupper the Labour Party's tax and spending plans. The Treasury now finally admits that recovery simply did not start in the second half of 1991, making the Chancellor look surprisingly optimistic. Once this bad news is accepted, however, a giveaway budget can be justified, at least for those with short memories. Most pundits now assume Mr Lamont will reduce tax rates by £2 billion and maybe up to £4 billion. On the surface, that would give greater credibility to Labour's spending plans. The more Mr Lamont gives away, however, the less scope there is for Labour. In the short-term, a politically motivated Chancellor could surely devise a Budget that Labour would find it much harder to reverse than a straight cut in the basic rate of income tax. Mr Lamont could introduce a new lower band, possibly as part of a wider package that allowed him to remove the ceiling on national insurance contributions. He could waive car tax and give further tax help to families.

A hefty short-term stimulus to the economy would, however, raise the budget deficit to levels unsustainable in the medium-term if Britain is to meet the tests for convergence under the ERM. On unchanged policies, the PSBR would probably be about 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product next year, just above the Maastricht guideline. This would rise above 3.5 per cent with tax cuts and nearly 5 per cent without the privatisation proceeds Labour would quickly phase out. This is an ERM version of Reaganomics, offsetting a fixed tight monetary policy with fiscal profligacy. In America, the stimulus worked but the deficit became a drug that could not be withdrawn without hurting the economy. ERM Reaganomics might scupper Labour plans but there is no reason to think it would be any more successful in Britain in the long run.

Bad advice

Building societies have so far not put up a brass farthing towards the Money Advice Trust, the organisation set up to ensure proper funding of debt counselling. Never has the need for such counselling been greater but societies seem to be leaving their origins behind and, like the banks in times of crisis, are looking after their own interests first. This month mortgage lenders are due to announce that repossessions topped 80,000 last year. Many societies will also report increased provisions for bad debt in their results for 1991. Most have responded to the problem by beefing up their internal debt counselling which stresses the importance of maintaining mortgage payments. Some donations have been made directly to money advice centres as well. Last year these totalled a miserly £63,000.

Societies should realise that their problems are not concerned with mortgages alone. They have no room to be disapproving of other lenders. They also face losses on credit cards, personal loans and cheque accounts. Few people who go to money advice centres have one single debt. Since they are all intertwined, sorting out the mortgage alone helps the society, not the borrower. It is surprising that the building societies are taking such risks with their image so soon after the leading society, the Halifax, has announced that it is to tax small savers. The money made charging people with less than £250 in their accounts would probably make a sizable donation to the Money Advice Trust.

Survival is the driving force in battle for car profits

Kevin Eason says some motor manufacturers are abandoning the holy grail of market share in an effort to revitalise the industry

Within four weeks of being called back from America to run Ford of Britain, Ian McAllister, a company principle seemingly written in stone, buy market share at any price.

Last year, 25 per cent of car buyers chose Ford. What has been worrying Mr McAllister, however, is how much it costs to sell those cars. In 1990, Ford sold more than 507,000 new cars and made its first pre-tax loss of £274 million. Last year, sales slumped to 386,000. The deficit will be big enough to make Mr McAllister's eyes water in his first year as chairman.

The slump shows little sign of ending without intervention by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, in his Budget. If manufacturers were struggling to keep afloat in 1990, Mr Lamont's last Budget sent a bow wave over the industry that washed away at least £3 billion worth of sales.

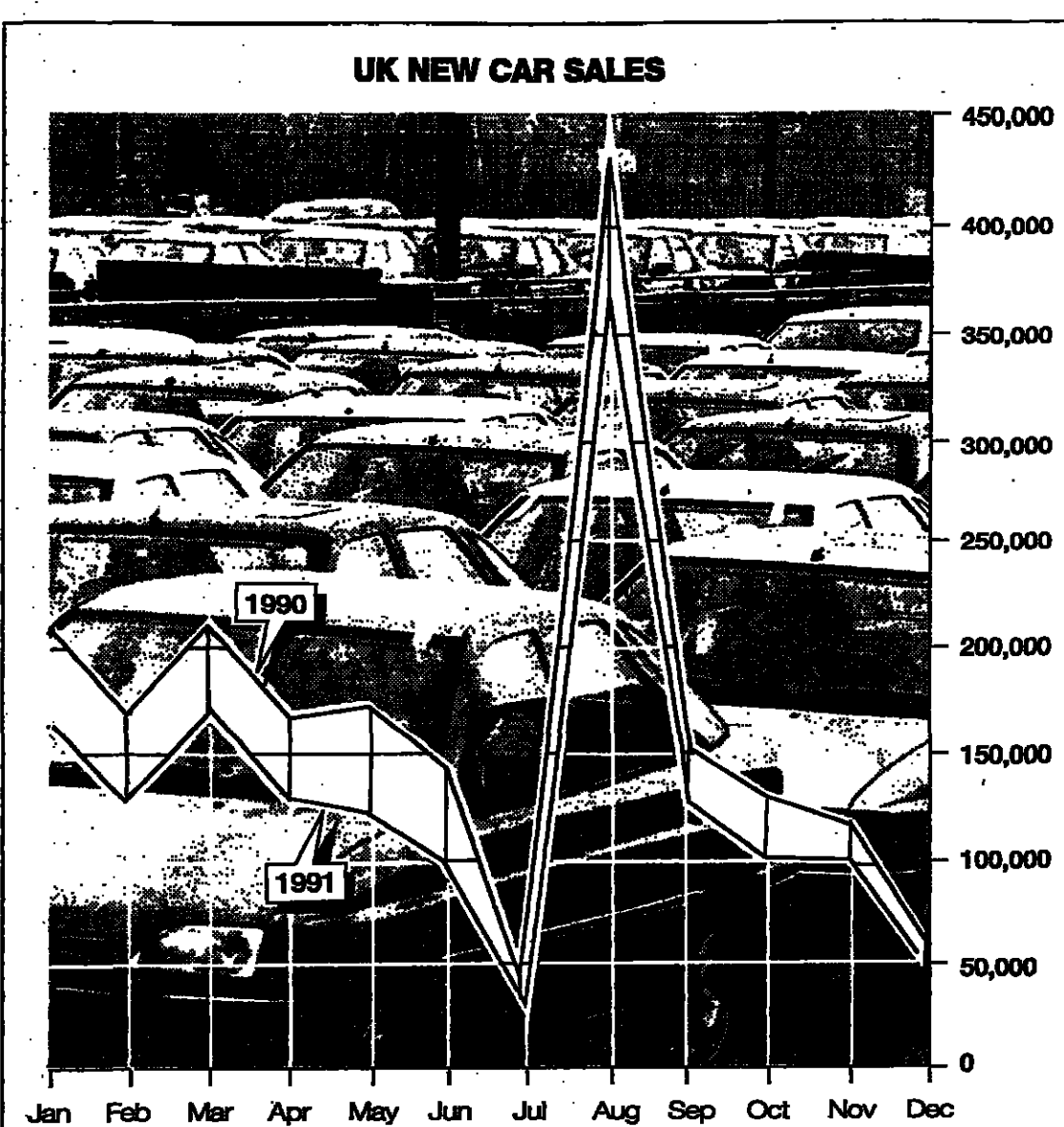
Mr McAllister has to assume the worst and deal with the recession as it is. That means making a profit however many cars Ford sells. For example, Ford is the biggest supplier of fleet cars in a country where half of the annual new car sales go to companies. Manufacturers have been outbidding each other with discounts of up to 40 per cent to obtain the business and, consequently, market share.

Being driven by the need for market share, however, has a serious penalty, as Mr McAllister has discovered. Ford makes cars that go to big daily rental fleets at discounts so lucrative that there is often no profit. Then the rental fleets sell cars nearly new to used car showrooms, depressing resale values.

That downward spiral makes new car customers unhappy, used car customers suspicious and dealers angry. Mr McAllister wants to break out of the stranglehold of chasing market share at any cost. The company will not pull out of the daily rental market but there are unlikely to be bonanza deals on the scale seen in the past.

Outside the industry, it is a small revolution and an obvious one to make in hard times, but the change of approach is also a significant pointer to the fact that the motor industry is reassessing itself. Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, is due to give his verdict soon on the enquiry into car pricing by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. No matter what measures he orders, the car business is moving ahead of him to deal with pressure of the recession and increasing competition from Japanese makers.

For years, market share has been



the manufacturers' holy grail. If the company sold more cars, the company was successful. The same was true for the dealers. Profit margins on a new car even in the good times were only about 7 or 8 per cent, but if dealers kept metal moving then they could make a little money while there would be profits from the after sales business of servicing and used cars sales taken as trade-ins.

More than 12,000 dealers are telling manufacturers that the recession has put paid to that strategy. The metal is not moving in spite of generous discounts and promotions. The costs of carrying stock can be enormous. Keeping 20 cars on the forecourt is like locking up £150,000, which is why dealers have been happy to sell at discounts simply to keep cash flowing in.

Neil Marshall, director of economic affairs at the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said that dealers are now lucky to take 1 per cent — £100 on an average £10,000 saloon — in profit from a new car. One in ten dealers has gone to the wall in the past year, resulting in 25,000 lost jobs. That attrition rate has alerted the entire business that survival is now the driving force. Rover, however, proved that the

company under the most pressure is often forced to become the most innovative. Rover scrapped the desperate search for sales at any price to make high value products that would attract higher prices and higher profits. The strategy has largely been a success, with Rover's image transformed.

Other car makers have also been looking hard at old-fashioned ways of search of profitable new ways of looking at old problems.

Ford reached the middle of last year with 80,000 Escorts and Orions made at Halewood, Merseyside, with nowhere to go. Buyers can have a big discount on one of those 1991 Escorts, but they have to have what is available out of stock. Mr McAllister wants to change that and Rover is already doing so. With the launch of the Rover 800 series last autumn came a plan to cut dealer stocks by making cars to order and holding them at Cowley, Oxford.

However, Rover is now moving one step further to find new customers. Researchers found 75 per cent of new car buyers knew which car they wanted before they entered a showroom. So Rover is moving its

sales pitch away from imposing glass and metal showrooms and into the high street. The company has shops where passers-by can call in and choose a car by computer. Using an active video screen, they find the model, choose colours, interior trims and a price without seeing either a car or a salesman.

Interest has been so great at the first two — at Reading and Leeds — that more shops are planned. Mr Marshall says that is part of the way retailing cars will go, with the reduction in overheads and overall costs leading to lower fixed prices with no need for wild and expensive discounting schemes.

That is the ideal, but manufacturers still need a strong home market to survive and the metal will still not start moving unless the Chancellor decides to kickstart Britain's biggest manufacturing and retailing employer back into revival.

Unless Mr Lamont acts on March 10 to relieve some of the burden on an industry that contributes £20 billion a year in tax revenues, manufacturers will worry less about lean retailing than about how much leaner the industry is going to be with dealerships, manufacturers and thousands more jobs at risk.

German steelmen set 6% yardstick

The "compromise" deal in the German steel sector amounted to an unlikely first-round victory for the IG Metall steel and metalworkers' union over a united front of employers, the Bundesbank and the government.

A negotiating session that went on long into the night produced a package envisaging average wage rises of 6.4 per cent, just below the union's effective pay demand, but well above the employers' 5.7 per cent offer.

More important, it is well above the Bundesbank's pain threshold. Anything above 6 per cent, one hears, would be "disastrous" because it would not bring inflation down to 2 per cent.

It is not merely the level of the settlement, but the ease with which it has been achieved, that is surprising. If IG Metall can win more than 6 per cent in the steel industry, which faces immense difficulties, what will happen in the infinitely more profitable metal industry, and how will this affect other unions? Above all, what will happen to German and European interest rates?

Judging by what the Bundesbank says — which is not necessarily the same as what the Bundesbank does — interest policy will not be directly influenced by pay settlements. The single yardstick has been and remains growth in money supply, and interest rates will come down only when money supply growth is back within the Bundesbank's very tight target range.

The two aspects might be related, although not necessarily. High wage settlements might drive up industrial costs, unless they can be offset by other savings. Higher costs, in turn, might increase the demand for money in the economy.

However, there are few indications that money supply growth is about to revert to its normal levels, irrespective of the level of wage settlements. That seems to rule out lower interest rates for the time being.

Whether deals above 6 per cent are necessarily inflationary depends on one's view of the cause of German inflation. It appears to be of the demand-pull, rather than cost-push, variety, (largely because of excess demand resulting from unification), so the level of wage settlements might turn out to be much less significant than feared.

From the unions' point of view, yesterday's agreement must be encouraging. The last-minute deal shows that the strike threat remains a powerful tool.

The spectre of economy-wide strikes has receded somewhat as a result, but, with or without strikes, the six-plus settlement will probably become the yardstick for other industries. The Bundesbank and the government had better get used to that.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business Correspondent

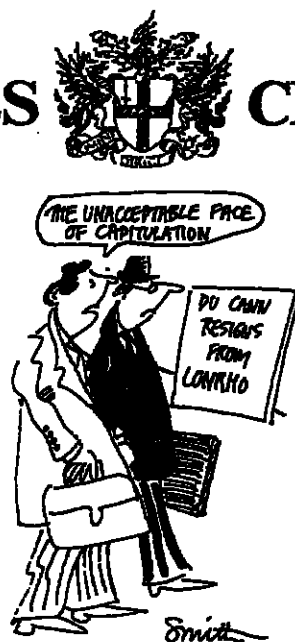
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Third time around

THE Square Mile is no longer what it used to be, but for some of the City's old hands, the lure of the market is as strong as ever. Hence the return of Leslie Langley-Jones, who, having retired twice in the past 14 years, is making a second comeback. He returns as a dealer with the team from Hoenig Institutional Services, now Hoenig & Co, who branched out on their own in 1989 to set up Javelin Securities and recently sold out to Greenwell Montagu. "I am delighted to be back," says Langley-Jones, aged 65, who retired last April after a 50-year career which took in the likes of AJ Allen, Roger Mortimer and a host of similar names from the old days of the market. His colleagues at Javelin are in store for some delightful stories. "There was one chap during the war who, on hearing the doodlebugs as he walked down Throgmorton Street, used to put up his umbrella," he chuckles.

Top guns

OBSERVERS at the launch of the £30 million Cannon Bridge futures and options exchange yesterday were left in little doubt as to who rules the roost. There has been much behind-the-scenes wrangling over what to call the London International financial futures exchange and its new bedfellow, the London traded options market. The official name is the London financial futures and options exchange or LIFFO, but it chooses to be called LIFFE-LTOM. The word LIFFE is splashed on various walls in giant red letters with a murky black strip underneath. If one



looks closely, the letters LTOM are just visible. Hard luck, chaps....

Fly posters

HAVE the liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International finally found a tenant for the former BCCI branch on the Cromwell Road in West London? The prominent glass building, which has been advertising low rental rates in a bid to attract custom, has been plastered with banners for Virgin Atlantic Airways. Could Richard Branson, who lives in nearby Holland Park, have found the deal too tempting to resist? The answer is "no". Virgin says it is just using the office front to promote its film and has no plans to move in.

Electrifying rhythms

NUCLEAR Electric is going to ever greater lengths to spread the message of "clean" energy. Aside from an intensive national television advertising campaign, inviting citizens in to sample the delights of nuclear energy for themselves, the company has won hearts in Morecambe,

Lancashire, by sponsoring the local silver band to the tune of £1,000. Only one catch. It will be henceforth be known as the Morecambe (Nuclear Electric) Band. Sounds like one for the charts.

Thought for food

IT IS hard to imagine what Russian shoppers would make of the latest trend in American supermarkets. Food stores are finding calculators to the handles of trolleys to help customers keep a running total of purchases. Being America, however, they do more than add up — they also compare product values and calculate food contents including calories, fat, salt, and cholesterol.

Pierce of cake

THE salesman who manages to sell snow to an eskimo is likely to succeed at anything. How, then, are we to take someone who has not only sold air-conditioning units in Alaska, but followed that up by selling heating units in Florida? Mike Pierce, formerly of Handley-Walker, the management consultant bought out by PE group in October, claims to have done both. And to prove he enjoys a challenge, he is setting out to sell British firms on the idea of "intrapreneurship" — a new approach to setting up businesses within existing companies. "It's a matter of going inside a company and training managers to think for themselves," says Pierce, an Irishman who grew up in Canada and sold air-conditioning to Eskimos during the Seventies. "I took the challenge in true entrepreneurial style," he adds. Having helped the National Grid create half a dozen new companies, he is now seeking new converts.

JON ASHWORTH

Alarmist forecast on Lloyd's

From Mr G. D. Wilding

Sir, I read your leading article in Business News (January 30, 1992) featuring Chatet predictions that Lloyd's names are facing huge losses on the 1991 account with dismay and extreme irritation.

Chatet's forecast is both alarmist and irresponsible and will no doubt encourage those names currently questioning their Lloyd's membership to resign at the very time there is a genuine upturn in market conditions, with the prospect of many syndicates returning to acceptable levels of profitability.

Whilst it is too early to forecast results for the 1991 accounts with any degree of accuracy, the latest figures of the syndicates managed by

our group suggest that we are on course for satisfactory profits and from my own market research I believe many syndicates are in a similar position.

I fully endorse the comments made by Paul Archard in your article and find it quite incredible that Chatet's damaging forecast is based on the first three months' figures of 1991. I assume this is a reporting error; if not, Charles Sturge and his colleagues at Chatet must surely review their methods and timing of analysing data.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. WILDING,
Higgins, Brastier & Marchant Ltd,
St Helen's,
1 Undershaft,
EC3.

Ravenous pets

From Captain J. M. Loney

Sir, I was interested to read in the article on petfoods (Business News, January 27), that Mintel, the market research organisation, estimates, among other items, that the volume of sales of petfood was some 1,263 million tonnes, which was a slight decrease on the previous year (1989).

In the article, the pet population, or the consumers of the petfood, was given as some 14½ million animals. The relation between the

sales volume and the animal numbers did appear to be a little out of the realms of reality because, on the basis of those figures, every cat and dog in this country consumes some nine tonnes of pet food annually.

Our elderly English Bull Terrier would be mortified if she knew that.

Shome mishtake shurely?

Yours faithfully,
J. M. LONEY,
1 Grassholm Close,
Westhill, Milford Haven,
Pembrokeshire.

High-handed action

From Mr J. Magus

Sir, I was interested in the letter from Mr Knottley (January 30) about the Bill being promoted by Alliance and Leicester to transfer all personal account balances to the building society.

The obvious and sensible reaction to this is for all personal account holders to withdraw their funds from Girobank as soon as possible. After all, if the depositors had wanted to place their

money with a building society, they could have done so in the first place. The banks are not the only businesses treating their customers in a high-handed manner, without prior reference, it would seem.

Yours faithfully,
J. MAGUS,
28 Haddon Avenue,
Burley,
Leeds.

Letters can be sent by fax on 071-762 5112.

MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES

Results for the year ended
31st December, 1991
(Unaudited)

	\$ million (except per share figures)	
	1991	1990
Total Revenues	\$2,779.2	\$2,723.0
Total Expenses	2,281.1	2,195.7
Operating Income	498.1	527.3
Income Before Income Taxes	526.8	528.8
Net Income	305.5	304.1
Net Income Per Share	\$4.18	\$4.15
Dividends Paid Per Share	\$2.60	\$2.55

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. is a professional services firm with insurance and reinsurance broking, consulting, and investment management businesses. More than 24,000 employees in 80 countries provide analysis, advice and transactional capabilities to clients worldwide. Our operating companies in the UK are:

The Bowring Group of Companies
William M. Mercer Fraser
Seabury & Smith
The Putnam Companies
Clayton Environmental Consultants
National Economic Research Associates
Mercer Management Consulting

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Portfolio

PLATINUM

Print your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share or Unit
1	Waters (C)	Building/Rd	1
2	Under Walker	Paper/Print	1
3	Midland	Chemicals	1
4	Meyer Inc	Building/Rd	1
5	Sum	Drugs/Pharm	1
6	Williams Hilly	Industrial	1
7	Crude	Chemicals	1
8	Waters Hilly	Industrial	1
9	Johnson Clean	Industrial	1
10	Silway	Building/Rd	1
11	FKI	Electrical	1
12	Whitland A	Foodstuffs	1
13	Booker	Foodstuffs	1
14	ICI	Chemicals	1
15	Dela	Industrial	1
16	Bridges	Industrial	1
17	Steeley	Industrial	1
18	Higgs & Hill	Building/Rd	1
19	Park Road	Foodstuffs	1
20	Waters (Sum)	Industrial	1
21	Swan Pacific A	Industrial	1
22	Thomson	Telecom	1
23	Monsieur D	Building/Rd	1
24	Canning (W)	Chemicals	1
25	Providence	Banking	1
26	Waters Hilly	Industrial	1
27	Chad Micro	Chemicals	1
28	Cap & Bagal	Foodstuffs	1
29	Procter	Foodstuffs	1
30	Shelleybury	Foodstuffs	1
31	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
32	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
33	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
34	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
35	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
36	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
37	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
38	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
39	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
40	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
41	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
42	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
43	Summit	Foodstuffs	1
44	Summit	Foodstuffs	1

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Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £4,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	+ -	%	YTD	%	P/E
1	Barclays	120.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.2	12.5
2	HSBC	115.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
3	London & Lancashire	110.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
4	Midland	105.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
5	Waters (C)	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0
6	Waters (Sum)	95.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5
7	Waters (Hilly)	90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
8	Waters (Crude)	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5
9	Waters (Clean)	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
10	Waters (Silway)	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5
11	Waters (FKI)	70.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
12	Waters (Whitland A)	65.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5
13	Waters (Booker)	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
14	Waters (ICI)	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
15	Waters (Dela)	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
16	Waters (Bridges)	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
17	Waters (Steeley)	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
18	Waters (Higgs & Hill)	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
19	Waters (Park Road)	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
20	Waters (Waters (Sum))	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
21	Waters (Waters (Swan Pacific A))	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
22	Waters (Waters (Thomson))	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
23	Waters (Waters (Monsieur D))	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24	Waters (Waters (Canning (W)))	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25	Waters (Waters (Providence))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	Waters (Waters (Waters Hilly))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	Waters (Waters (Chad Micro))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
28	Waters (Waters (Cap & Bagal))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29	Waters (Waters (Procter))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30	Waters (Waters (Shelleybury))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
32	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
33	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
36	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
37	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
38	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
39	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
40	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
41	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
42	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
43	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	+ -	%	YTD	%	P/E
1	Barclays	120.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.2	12.5
2	HSBC	115.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
3	London & Lancashire	110.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
4	Midland	105.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
5	Waters (C)	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0
6	Waters (Sum)	95.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5
7	Waters (Hilly)	90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
8	Waters (Crude)	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5
9	Waters (Clean)	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
10	Waters (Silway)	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5
11	Waters (FKI)	70.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
12	Waters (Whitland A)	65.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5
13	Waters (Booker)	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
14	Waters (ICI)	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
15	Waters (Dela)	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
16	Waters (Bridges)	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
17	Waters (Steeley)	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
18	Waters (Higgs & Hill)	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
19	Waters (Park Road)	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
20	Waters (Waters (Sum))	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
21	Waters (Waters (Swan Pacific A))	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
22	Waters (Waters (Thomson))	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
23	Waters (Waters (Monsieur D))	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24	Waters (Waters (Canning (W)))	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25	Waters (Waters (Providence))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	Waters (Waters (Waters Hilly))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	Waters (Waters (Chad Micro))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
28	Waters (Waters (Cap & Bagal))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29	Waters (Waters (Procter))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30	Waters (Waters (Shelleybury))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
32	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
33	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
36	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
37	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
38	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
39	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
40	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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3	London & Lancashire	110.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
4	Midland	105.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5
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22	Waters (Waters (Thomson))	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
23	Waters (Waters (Monsieur D))	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24	Waters (Waters (Canning (W)))	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25	Waters (Waters (Providence))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	Waters (Waters (Waters Hilly))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	Waters (Waters (Chad Micro))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
28	Waters (Waters (Cap & Bagal))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29	Waters (Waters (Procter))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30	Waters (Waters (Shelleybury))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
32	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
33	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
36	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
37	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
38	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
39	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
40	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
41	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
42	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
43	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	Waters (Waters (Summit))	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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Woodgate to frank fine Warwick record

FOLLOWING the victory of Cool Ground at Cheltenham last Saturday, Woodgate has a sound chance of winning the George County Challenge Cup at Warwick today for the second time, the first being two years ago when he beat Roll-A-Joint.

That was not the first occasion either that he had shown a liking for this Midlands track. For it was there that he won his first steeplechase, back in the autumn of 1987. More recently, Woodgate won the Warwick Grand National under Carl Llewellyn, beating Cool Ground by a length-and-a-half, despite having to carry 9lb more than his allotted weight in the long handicap.

With another course and distance winner Boracova anything but dependable these days, the main threat to Woodgate could come from another who is out of the handicap, Anthony Jones's Boxing Day winner Sunbeam Talbot, whose form has been franked twice since by the subsequent winning performances of the runner-up, Ixora.

Having been denied what looked like a golden opportunity on Saturday when the fog brought the curtain down on Stratford, Sanballat can make up for lost time by winning the Air Wedding Hunters' Chase.

Whether Road To Au Bon.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

another who looked to have a good chance at Stratford, will be so lucky in the Ryton Novices' Hurdle remains to be seen since he now has to contend with Kilcass, Peter Hedger's recent recruit from Ireland.

Kilcass was previously trained by Jim Bolger for whom he won at Fairyhouse before being placed second at Punchestown and Naas.

Following that easy win at Lingfield, Oliver Sherwood's Change The Act is my choice to win the Princethorpe Novices' Chase since his jumping looks rather more reliable than that of Black Humour, his rival from Upper Lambourn.



Edwards: fine chance for Carlisle double

Having so nearly won the Tote Jackpot Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday with Holy Joe, the Cheltenham trainer Jim Wilson will be looking to Jeannet (2.00) and Fun Money (4.30) to compensate his yard.

While Jeannet, who won over hurdles at Stratford and Uttoxeter last season, reverts to hurdling again after a spell chasing, Fun Money will be endeavouring to land another bumper success.

At Carlisle, I will be looking to John Edwards and Norman Williamson to pay for their trip from Ross-on-Wye by winning with Finedust (1.20) and Trusty Friend (2.20).

Following that promising first run of the season behind the in-form Gambling Royal at Stratford, the latter can live up to his name by winning the Stanwix Handicap Chase.

Earlier in the programme, Direct is napped to record his first win over fences by capturing the second division of the Bet With The Tote Novices' Chase.

Direct finished third in the 1990 Coral Golden Hurdle final at Cheltenham, but was given the whole of last season off to recover from the leg injury that he sustained in that event.

Although he fell on his comeback at the second-last fence in the race won by Ryde Again at Cheltenham, his performance still boded well.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
1.30 Sanballat.	1.30 Sanballat.	2.00 JUST AS I AM (nap).
2.00 Jeannet.	2.00 Just As I Am.	2.30 Royal Haven.
2.30 French Chatter.	2.30 Charterfordhardware.	4.00 Rough Quest.
3.00 Woodgate.	3.00 Boracova.	
3.30 Kilcass.	3.30 Cadency.	
4.00 Change The Act.	4.00 CHANGE THE ACT (nap).	
4.30 Fun Money.	4.30 Young Gus.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.30 SANBALLAT.

Brian Beak: 1.30 Sanballat.

GOING: GOOD

1.30 AIR WEDDING TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,297; 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1	1/12021	KNOCKMISHIN 222 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
2	143115	RAIN MARK 270 (D.G.S.) (M Chatterton) M Chatterton 11-12-8	C Beatty 65
3	3231	AL-KHALIDIA 191 (P) (J Dufosse) J Dufosse 8-12-3	M Fallon 77
4	10077	RECON GROVE 55 (S) (P Gannon) P Gannon 11-12-2	C Beatty 65
5	00074	CHIEF JO 253 (D) (P Gannon) P Gannon 11-12-2	C Beatty 65
6	4047	COOL MOSS 307 (D) (P Gannon) P Gannon 11-12-2	C Beatty 65
7	227358	CURRANEEN BOY 248 (P) (C Tinsley) C Tinsley 12-12-2	M Jones 78
8	94722	PROGRESSIVE TECH 229 (P) (P Gannon) P Gannon 11-12-2	C Beatty 65
9	50304	FIFTH AVENUE LAD 286 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
10	4221-06	GUILDWAY 168 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
11	21-1	PASTORAL PRIDE 222 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
12	7/757	PROGRESSIVE TECH 229 (P) (P Gannon) P Gannon 11-12-2	C Beatty 65
13	114170	SANBALLAT 327 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
14	38225	SPORTING MARINER 248 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65
15	503154	THE SPARTAN 248 (D.F.S.) (S Smith) Sidney J Smith 9-12-8	S R Andrews 65

BETTING: 1-1 Sanballat, 7-2 Cadency, 7-4 Jeannet, 10-1 True Spartan, 12-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING MEETINGS

FORM FOCUS

KNOCKMISHIN best Dinner Suit 10 in a 11-runner novice hunter chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) to beat RAIN MARK 270 (D.G.S.) (M Chatterton) M Chatterton 11-12-8. RAIN MARK 270 (D.G.S.) (M Chatterton) M Chatterton 11-12-8. RAIN MARK 270 (D.G.S.) (M Chatterton) M Chatterton 11-12-8.

2.00 GLOBE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,321; 2m 5f) (20 runners)

1	51600	SUN CRUISE 328 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	55-00	CLIPSHAW 20 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	41-1	JUST AS I AM 244 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	10430-3	GANDON 21 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	42100	SADDLERS CHASE 308 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	55151	GERALDINE 216 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	001-43	SUPERIOR FRESH 15 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	12-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	55-00	CLIPSHAW 20 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	11-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	001-43	SUPERIOR FRESH 15 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	12-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	55-00	CLIPSHAW 20 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	11-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	001-43	SUPERIOR FRESH 15 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	12-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	55-00	CLIPSHAW 20 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	11-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
19	001-43	SUPERIOR FRESH 15 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
20	12-032	JEANIE 28 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

Long handicap, 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3.

2.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNTER NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,355; 2m) (18 runners)

1	05-6	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	00-020	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

BETTING: 1-11 Chatterton, 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3.

2.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNTER NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,355; 2m) (18 runners)

1	05-6	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	00-020	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

BETTING: 1-11 Chatterton, 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3.

2.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNTER NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,355; 2m) (18 runners)

1	05-6	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	00-020	BIRCHWOOD 18 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	003-42	CHARTERFORDHURDLE 70 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

BETTING: 1-11 Chatterton, 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3.

1.20 SET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: Div 1: £2,777; 3m) (11 runners)

1	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	1/1221	PACIFIC SOUND 26 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

BETTING: 1-11 Chatterton, 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3. 10-11-3.

1.50 WETHERSILL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,614; 2m 11f) (21 runners)

1	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
2	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
3	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
4	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
5	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
6	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
7	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
8	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
9	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
10	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
11	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
12	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
13	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
14	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
15	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
16	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
17	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
18	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
19	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
20	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97
21	341340	HALCANOR 10 (D.F.S.) (A Ash) O O'Brien 10-11-3	V Stacey 97

3.00 GEORGE

FOOTBALL

West Ham may bank on Small to avoid upset

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

THE expression "we were not at the races" is much beloved of beaten football managers, but Billy Bonds must hope that he will not be offering such a lament should West Ham United lose at the Racecourse Ground tonight.

Bonds knows that West Ham will give West Ham's first division names a run for their money in an FA Cup fourth round replay forced by the fourth division side's 2-2 draw at Upton Park ten days ago. Brian Flynn, the West Ham manager, said: "We beat Arsenal here in the third round, so who is to say we cannot do it again against West Ham."

So great is interest in this televised fixture that the teams will play before a sell-out crowd of 20,000. Originally only 17,500 tickets were on sale for the match but Wrexham police last week agreed to raise the capacity by 2,500. The prize on offer is a fifth round trip to either Oxford United or Sunderland.

One man who hopes to help West Ham achieve it is Simon Clarke. Aged 20, and with just a minute of first team experience behind him, he replaces Matthew Rush as the only alteration to Bonds's 13.

That means another appearance in goal for Tony Parks who replaced the injured Lukic Mikosko during the 1-0 win against Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

Parks's principal claim to fame is the dramatic save he

made in a penalty shoot-out that secured the UEFA Cup for Tottenham Hotspur in 1984. Since then his star has waned and he has earned his wages at various outposts including Brentford and Fulham. "At least it means I know what playing at places like Wrexham is like," he said.

Mike Small hopes to restrict either Frank McAvennie or Trevor Morley to the bench by starting in attack after coming on for the last half hour on Saturday. "I have been disappointed with my form," he said, "but we have not been playing well as a team and the chances have not been coming."

Leeds United trust that Eric Cantona will be converting plenty for them. The French international forward trained for the first time at Elland Road yesterday after signing on loan from Nimes until the end of the season.

Cantona may play in the reserves against Bolton Wanderers tomorrow night, and Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, would like him to make his first team debut at Oldham on Saturday.

If the loan goes well, Leeds have an option to sign Cantona for £1 million in the summer. Wilkinson said: "I was pleasantly surprised by Eric's fitness in training and he is in contention for Saturday. He has a huge reputation and must be worth the gamble. He understands that no player is guaranteed anything here."

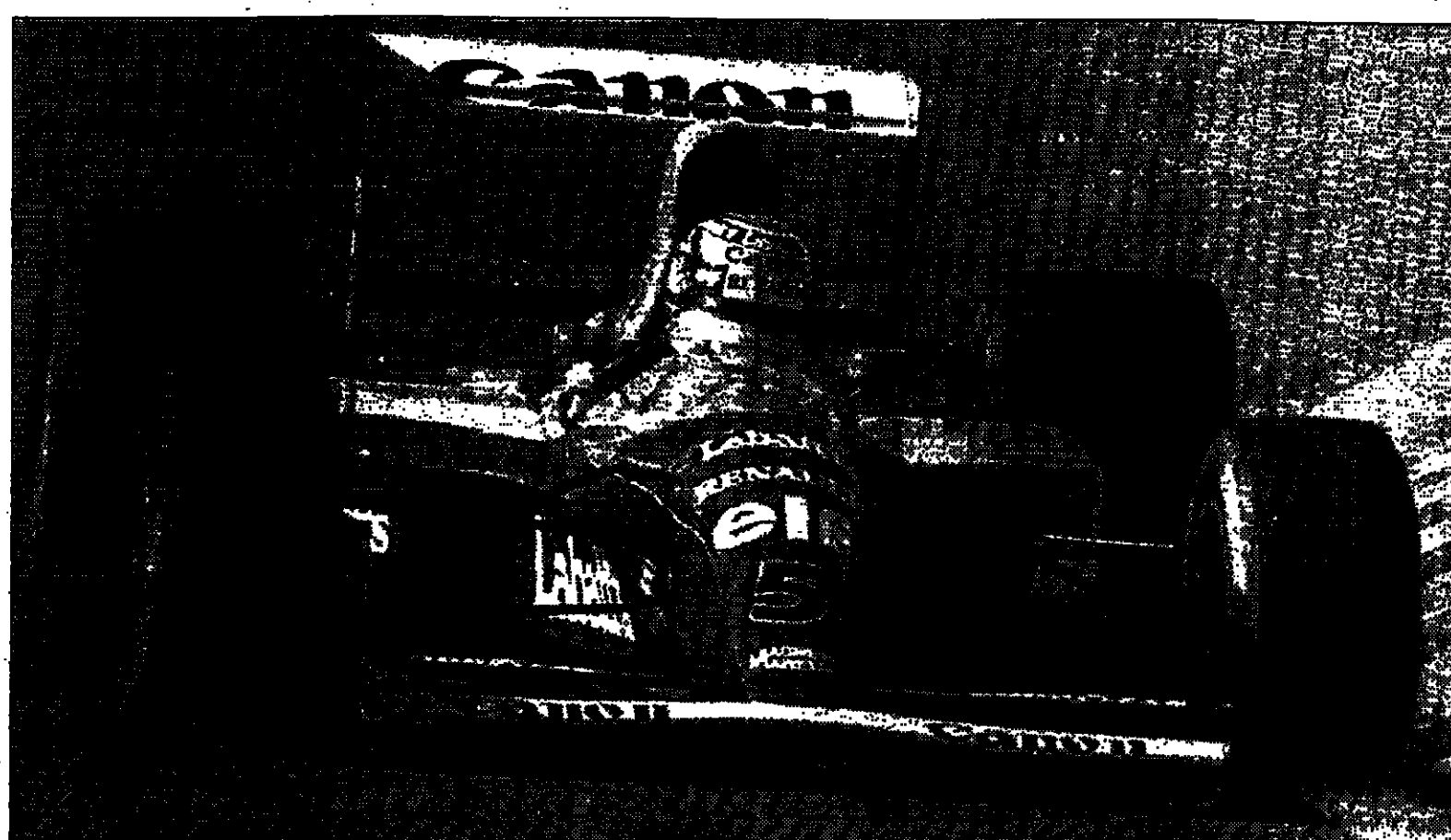
Parry to air solution

THE negotiations between the Football Association, Football League and first division clubs over the terms for the establishment of the FA Premier League resume at Lancaster Gate this morning (Peter Ball writes). The chance of the League getting off the ground next season may depend on the outcome.

The first meeting two weeks ago ended in impasse over the issue of promotion and relegation during the transitional period when the Premier

League reduces to 20 clubs from the present 22. That remains the stumbling block since the Football League insist that the guaranteed three promotion places be maintained during this period.

Some compromise is essential, and Rick Parry, the acting chief executive of the Premier League, is likely to propose that a solution would be for 1992-3 to be a normal season with four clubs relegated and two promoted at the end of the next season.



Learning curve: Nigel Mansell takes a bend testing his Williams-Renault in Estoril, Portugal, yesterday. Lauda joins Ferrari, page 24

SNOOKER

Robidoux finds peak form

BY PHIL YATES

ALAIN Robidoux, giving undoubtedly his best display of the season, reached the quarter-finals of the £365,000 Benson and Hedges Masters with a surprise 5-2 victory over Gary Wilkinson, the world matchplay champion, at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

When Wilkinson, the world No. 5, made a 119 break in the second frame and, leading 2-1, forged ahead by 69-0 in the fourth, Robidoux did not have the look of a winner.

However, he levelled at 2-2 with a 39 clearance to black and recovered from 5-49 in the next with a 63 clearance.

Those two efforts from the Canadian champion proved shrewd psychological blows and Wilkinson found it impossible to repair the damage.

Robidoux, who moved to Scotland from Montreal six months ago, gave much of the credit to his manager Ian Doyle, renowned as a hard taskmaster. "He's always pushing me. I've not been satisfied with the way I've been playing but he's been on my back to practice for five or six hours a day and it's worked."

Ken Doherty scored a 5-4 first-round win over Tony

Jones, the holder of the European Open title. Doherty, aged 22, from Dublin, Willie Thorne and Nigel Bond during the qualifying competition, fought back from a 4-2 deficit with breaks of 87, 56 and 47 in the deciding frame initiated by a fluked red.

Having lost four times in the deciding frame in big events this season, Doherty, the world No. 51, was understandably relieved to finally emerge victorious on a close match.

RESULTS: First round: K. Doherty (Rep of Ire) 5-4 A. Jones (Eng), 5-4 A. Robidoux (Can) 5-2 G. Wilkinson (Eng), 5-2.

YACHTING

Pajot confirms his promise

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

THE America's Cup trials finally came to life on Sunday when Marc Pajot's promising French challenger, Ville de Paris, won a surprise victory over the Italian world champions, Il Moro di Venezia.

At the finish, 25 seconds was all that divided the two crews after they had been locked together throughout the 20-mile race. Paul Cayard and his Italian crew fought everything into the fight, including 37 tacks on the second beat, but failed to shake

off the tight French cover. The duel proved that racing in these new America's Cup class yachts can be tight, but also confirmed that it is almost impossible to overtake unless the leading yacht makes a mistake.

The result dropped the Italians from first to joint third place, with the French, in this first round-robin series, one point behind New Zealand and Japan. Among the lower ranks, there is an air of desperation to find extra speed

before the second round-robin trials start on February 13. Within the defender camps, Bill Koch's America 3 is preparing to launch its third boat today, to replace Jayhawk in the second round of defence trials starting on February 8.

RESULTS: Challenger trials: Seventh round: Tre Kronor (Swe) 1st Challenge Australia, 2nd; Ville de Paris 3rd; Il Moro di Venezia, 4th; New Zealand 5th; Spirit of Australia, 6th; Nippon 7th; Japan 8th; Team USA, 9th; Team New Zealand, 10th; Team France, 11th; Team Canada, 12th; Team USA, 13th; Team France, 14th; Team Canada, 15th; Team USA, 16th; Team France, 17th; Team Canada, 18th; Team USA, 19th; Team France, 20th; Team Canada, 21st; Team USA, 22nd; Team France, 23rd; Team Canada, 24th; Team USA, 25th; Team France, 26th; Team Canada, 27th; Team USA, 28th; Team France, 29th; Team Canada, 30th; Team USA, 31st; Team France, 32nd; Team Canada, 33rd; Team USA, 34th; Team France, 35th; Team Canada, 36th; Team USA, 37th; Team France, 38th; Team Canada, 39th; Team USA, 40th; Team France, 41st; Team Canada, 42nd; Team USA, 43rd; Team France, 44th; Team Canada, 45th; Team USA, 46th; Team France, 47th; Team Canada, 48th; Team USA, 49th; Team France, 50th; Team Canada, 51st; Team USA, 52nd; Team France, 53rd; 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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1992

RFU plans the most complete centre for rugby union in the northern hemisphere

Twickenham's shining vision

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A VISION of Twickenham 2000 was unveiled by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) yesterday. That vision may exist only in model form at present but it is the union's ambition to have an all-seat 75,000-capacity stadium before the turn of the century.

The second stage of the ground's redevelopment — the rebuilding of the East Stand capable of holding some 23,000 — has been approved and work will start in May with a completion date in February 1994. At a cost of around £26 million, a new three-tier stand will stretch round from the North Stand which was opened 14 months ago. The third stage embraces the West Stand which, it is hoped, can be replaced by 1999.

The RFU has been encouraged to sustain the pace of its ground development for two primary reasons: the recession, which has made the building industry such a competitive area, and the high profile of rugby union in England, in the wake of the national team's grand slam and the successful staging last autumn of the World Cup in Britain.

The East Stand, which holds 15,800, is 74 years old. Tenders for its replacement will be back by March 2 and it is hoped that, within the next year, the lower tier of the new stand will be completed, in time for the 1993 five nations' championship.

Building work would reduce the capacity of the ground to 44,000 for the anticipated match on November 14 against South Africa, for the game between the Barbarians and Australia that same month, and next December's University match. But by the time England play France in January 1993, capacity would be 54,000 and, by summer 1994, the ground capacity would stand at 68,000.

A capacity 60,000 attended last Saturday's victory over Ireland, compared with 54,000 at Wales's match with France in Cardiff. "England's success has increased the visibility of the game," Tony Hallett, chairman of the RFU's building sub-committee, said yesterday. "We expect big crowds but the East and West stands now are like

pieces of old Ming. It looks a tatty-turvy stadium so we have to get on and produce the highest quality accommodation."

The new stand will include bar areas, restaurants, shops, gymnasiums and lecture halls with a range of hospitality boxes on the second tier. The RFU hopes to raise some £6 million from the reissue of 1,000 business debentures (left over from the North Stand development and priced, over a ten-year period, at the same level) and some £20 million from 10,000 individual, club-sponsored debentures, costing £2,000 for a ten-year term.

More funds may be generated by the sale of debentures for some 700 car parking places. "A significant reason for going ahead now is the 'softness' of the construction industry," Hallett said. The union believes that it may be able to construct its new stand at a cost of £750 a seat, compared with just over £1,000 a seat for the North Stand three years ago.

"We believe it will be the largest all-seated stadium outside the USA," Hallett said. "Ellis Park in Johannesburg holds more, but many people are standing. Murrayfield after its redevelopment will have a total capacity, I believe, of 68,000 and we have been much encouraged by the success of the Scottish Rugby Union's debenture scheme."

At the same time, the playing surface will be widened and a concourse established around it, which might make it an attractive venue for other sports, though the RFU, while open to proposals, would bear in mind the demands that would make upon local residents. It would be comparatively easy, too, to establish floodlighting on the new stands, making Billy Williams's cabbage patch — as Twickenham was affectionately known — the most complete rugby centre in the northern hemisphere.

The Rugby Football Union is to extend its player-registration scheme next season, hoping thereby to avoid inadvertent breaches of the regulations such as by Bath, who lost a league point because they fielded an unregistered player.



Perfect model: Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, poses with Twickenham as it will be in 2000

Keeping the sward green

HUNDREDS of crushed walnut shells are being used to ensure that, even after a punishing season, the grass on the famous pitch at Twickenham will recover and thrive after the East Stand is built.

The shells form an artificial pitch for two models, one of the existing stadium and one of the redesigned Twickenham, which are being used to study the way the wind will flow through the ground after the stand has been constructed.

Modern high-sided stadiums can, if badly planned, block off the flows of air needed to keep a pitch well ventilated and healthy.

It can lead to the kind of sad looking surface witnessed at Villa Park this season where the centre of the pitch has been almost denuded of grass.

The wind tests, which are design to avert this problem,

Nick Nuttall examines the grass-roots technology being used in Twickenham's ambitious plans for redevelopment

are being done in tunnels at the government's Building Research Establishment at Garston, near Watford, in Hertfordshire.

Here engineers have been putting the Twickenham models, complete with the streets and houses surrounding the ground, on to turntables.

The turntables can be twisted into winds of varying speeds to simulate breezes and gales coming in from a variety of directions.

As the air surges through the models they buff and push the walnut shells into patterns and shapes that offer clues as to how well the grass

will be ventilated when the East Stand is built.

The findings, which have been made into a 30-minute video, are being sent to the stand's designers who may have to alter plans to cater for the grass.

Alan Penwarden, the manager of the establishment's wind tunnels, said: "We cannot say yet whether this is the case. However there does appear to be more shelter than before."

The tests might also help keep down the costs of the redevelopment by indicating the most cost-effective design for the East Stand's proposed cantilever roof.

Once every 50 years a gale of 20 metres a second can be expected to Twickenham.

The engineers have installed 100 pressure sensors into the model to evaluate the cheapest design able to withstand such a gale.

Oti and Redman in squad

BY DAVID HANDS

CHRIS Oti and Nigel Redman, both members of England's 1991 World Cup squad, have been added to the playing party which will prepare this weekend for the next stage of the five nations' championship, against France in Paris on February 15.

Oti, the Wasps wing, lost his place in the England XV following the pool games in the World Cup while Redman, the experienced Bath lock, was always going to play second fiddle in that tournament to Wade Dooley and Paul Ackford.

Their return is not necessarily a reflection upon the players who have achieved decisive wins against Scotland and Ireland but to ensure they stay part of England's plans for the future.

England will train on Sunday, probably at Twicken-

ham, when the side to play France will be announced. Meanwhile, Christophe Mougout, the French lock who was replaced at half-time in the 12-9 victory over Wales in the 12-9 victory over Wales on Saturday, will be out of action for a month.

Olivier Roumat took over, but despite suggestions otherwise, the French team doctor, Jean-Pierre Marty, yesterday confirmed that Mougout had a torn muscle in his right calf.

"He will need at least three to four weeks rest," Marty said. France are due to name their squad of 21 for the England match on Friday.

Roumat looks certain to make the starting line-up. Sean Lineen, the Scotland centre, will be fit to face Ireland in Dublin on February 15. He cracked a rib against England but came through a squad training weekend with a clean bill of health.

"I am back fit and ready to play for Scotland if selected," he said. "I will definitely play for Boroughmuir against Stirling in the League on Saturday."

Ian McGeechan, Scotland's coach, gave his squad a clean bill of health for the Dublin clash, the team for which will be announced tomorrow. The 31-strong national squad spent much of the weekend working on ball control in contact situations.

"We looked at the things we did well against England and the things we know we have to do better," McGeechan said. "The bottom line for us was that, well that we played, the end product against England was not right. We have got to be pretty critical about ourselves. If we can stick to our game plan we can be fairly formidable — against any team."

Delors treads on dangerous Games ground

BY DAVID MILLER

Courchevel

IN WHAT appears to be a clear breach of the charter of the Olympic Games, the European Community (EC) has purchased for £10 million a political foothold in the opening ceremonies for both the Winter Games, to be staged in Albertville next Saturday, and in Barcelona at the Summer Games. This is a profoundly dangerous precedent for the Olympics and for sport as a whole.

With remarkable arrogance, the EC's initial proposal was that the Winter Games here should be formally opened by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had the sense to give that suggestion a short answer, yet for a mere £10 million of taxpayers' money, the EC has gained a priceless propaganda platform. Money, they say, has no smell.

Article 61 of the charter states: "No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in the Olympic areas." The EC manoeuvre is exclusively political, though what form its presence in the opening ceremony here will take, has not yet been disclosed.

Besides the official opening by Delors, other rejected proposals were the collective marching of the 12 nations under the blue community flag and the wearing of the symbol on uniforms. The latter was rejected by the European Association of National Olympic Committees, under the presidency of Dr Jacques Rogge, of Belgium.

If the EC is granted such favour, it will be asked why the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League, the new Commonwealth of Independent States and other political conglomerates should not have the same opportunity for global television advertising of their ambitions. Although both this year's Games are in member-countries of the EC, I understand there was considerable argument within the IOC executive board on this issue.

Francois Carrard, the IOC's director-general and a prominent Swiss lawyer, said that he regarded the promotion of the community's ideal of double citizenship as both legal and respectable.



Yet Carrard admitted: "I don't know yet what will be the final involvement. There is concern that the charter says there should be no political propaganda, and we want to make sure they are not overdoing it. These are not the Games of Europe. The IOC has over 170 member countries, yet all ceremonies project the enhancement of nationality."

Rogge said the European Association was approached by Brussels in 1986. "Their proposal was naive and blunt. They wanted the 12 nations to send one team to the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988. Their next proposal came in 1989, when they asked that we promote European double identity. Our reaction was to suggest they should fund Olympic training camps, though the discussion never reached the matter of money," he added.

The EC, I understand, wished only to debate the community's Olympic presence if the 12 nations were united. An unofficial poll by Rogge revealed four-to-one in favour, with, typically, waverers saying they agreed if others wanted it.

In March last year, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, had a meeting with the European Parliament representatives in Brussels at which it was explained to Delors that there was no unanimity. It is significant that the Treaty of Rome has no special aid fund for sport. Of the £10 million fee for involvement in the opening ceremony, all the money will go to the organising committees of Albertville and Barcelona, and nothing to the IOC or national Olympic committees.

Kronberger gesture, page 24

Hadlee welcomes the new member

Perth: Kapil Dev received a congratulatory fax message from Sir Richard Hadlee yesterday after becoming the second player to take 400 Test wickets. He has pledged to go on and try to surpass the New Zealand bowler's record of 431.

He wants to overhaul Hadlee while Sunil Gavaskar still holds the record as Test cricket's highest runscorer. "For us both to be No. 1 together would be a great achievement for the Indian people," Kapil said.

It was two years to the day since Hadlee reached his 400 in Christchurch and Manjrekar, who provided him with that important wicket, was among the crowd of fielders who mobbed Kapil

when the umpire, Tony Crafter, gave Mark Taylor out leg-before late on the third day of the fifth Test here.

"I am very proud and very happy," Kapil said, "especially as India has never been known for producing fast bowlers, although he was a little sad at not reaching the landmark in India."

Kapil Dev claimed Sadiq Mohammad as his first Test wicket in Lahore in October 1978. Gavaskar, who took that catch in the slips, said: "If he goes on to take 432 — and I am praying that he does — I think his record will last longer than mine."

Tendulkar's day, page 26
Gooch reflects, page 26

Basement battlers have striking in common

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

WHEN the players of Northampton Town and Aldershot gather in the bar after their fourth division match at the County Ground this evening, their talk is likely to turn quickly to the subject of striking. But for once they will not be talking about the art of goalkeeping; instead they will be discussing industrial action.

Players on both sides have already taken tentative steps in that direction. The 18-strong Aldershot squad did not turn up for training yesterday in protest at not having been paid since the week before Christmas. The Northampton players know the feeling. They boycotted training in November for the same reason, only relenting when the Professional Foot-

ballers' Association (PFA) stepped in to pay them for the remainder of the year. But they have not been paid since and will take action if that is still the case on Friday.

Such is life at the bottom of the Football League heap where gate receipts come nowhere near to meeting expenditure. While the big clubs gather in London today to discuss the formation of a super league, the smaller ones face an uncertain future. The two which meet in Northampton this evening are merely the most pressing examples.

Aldershot's future will be determined in the High Court tomorrow, when their last hope of survival depends upon Simon Home-Kendall, a director of Crystal Palace, proving he can lead a rescue. If his attempt is a failure,

Aldershot will be wound up. After the PFA bailed Northampton out, the club promised to pay the January wage bill on January 31. It failed to do so and the chairman, Michael McRitchie, then pledged to meet the salary demands this Friday, using the gate receipts from tonight's game and the home one on Saturday against Gillingham.

McRitchie met with League officials last Friday but despite debts of £940,000, a League spokesman reported the meeting to have been "very positive". He said: "Northampton's move to a new ground, as tenants of the local council, in 1993 is under way and they are optimistic that they can survive until then, when a new era should start."

That is of little consolation to players unable to buy their

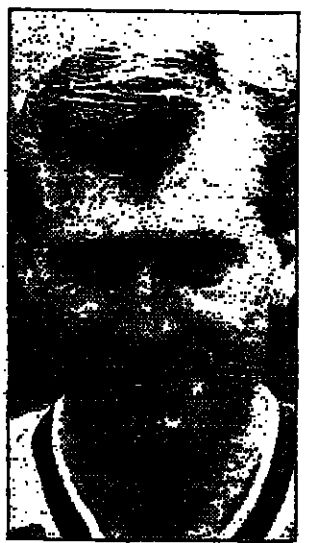
children new clothes or take their wives out to dinner. Ian McDonald, Aldershot's player-manager, said: "Our average wage is about £300 a week and without it coming in, most of the players have been to see their banks or building societies to arrange loans. I have visited my bank manager."

David Puckett, the club's leading scorer, once played for Southampton in the first division — a lifestyle that could hardly seem further away now. "More than half our players are married, and most have mortgages with payments due on the first of the month," he said. "Even when they are paid regularly, players at third and fourth division level rely on their wages for paying, housing, food and essential bills. There is not a lot left over."

Yet, while footballers are prepared to miss training to make their protest, missing matches is another thing altogether, as McDonald quickly pointed out. "There is no question of not fulfilling our fixtures and I trust every one to keep themselves fit at home. It is in their interests to look after themselves in case they need to find a new club."

Not if Northampton's example is anything to go by, is financial trouble necessarily reflected in performance on the pitch. Since their difficulties began, they have risen from eighteenth to tenth.

There is another irony. As Puckett observed: "Tonight's is probably the first match between 22 professional players who are not being paid."



Puckett: "not a lot left"

Wreckum ready, page 27
League discussions, page 27

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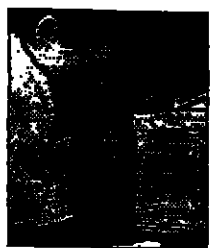
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LIFE & TIMES

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LAW

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Welcome to the reel Britain



Isn't it lovely: Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn, transformed from cockney flower seller (right) to high-society girl in *My Fair Lady* in 1964, encapsulate the Hollywood caricature of Britain — a mixture of derision and envy

Shaw's *Pygmalion* is rarely revived today. But *My Fair Lady*, the musical that grew out of it, seems never to be out of the repertoire, whether on stage or in George Cukor's 1964 film adaptation. A big production by Simon Callow opens next week in Manchester and will tour for eight months before coming to the West End.

Aside from Loewe's music, the charm must lie in Lerner's Americanisation of the text. Shaw's Edwardian England is seen through American eyes. Stanley Holloway's all-singing, all-dancing cockney Doolittle and Dame Gladys Cooper's glamorous salon belong to the Hollywood myth of how Britain should be. Moreover, the plot — cockney girl's elevation into high society — allows two essentially stereotyped worlds to be combined.

Mythical England — an imaginary world of chirpy cockneys, pub knees-ups, snooty aristocrats, suave butlers, quaint villages, ham-and-swiss, and pea-soupers — constantly recurs in Hollywood films and Broadway shows. How did the misconception begin, and why does it persist?

Perhaps a clue lies in what is surely the apex of the myth: William Wyler's *Mrs Miniver*. Will anyone remember to cele-

brate the film's golden jubilee? *Mrs Miniver* came out in the spring of 1942, and did much to bring round Americans who were still dubious about intervention in the European war.

Churchill called the film "propaganda worth a hundred battle-ships". Josef Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, considered it "an exemplary propaganda film for the German people to copy". The picture of England presented was, far from any documentary reality of the British at war, a romantic confirmation of American myths. This was its strength.

The opening title introduces "an average middle-class family". They occupy a palatial villa in a never-never land of the Home Counties, with a boat, a new convertible and a more than adequate domestic staff. In fact, the village of Belham is a microcosm of feudal Britain, from cottage to castle. The British public was not at all averse to this coloured view of their lives and war. *Mrs Miniver* was a huge box office success in Britain, just as it was in America.

Costly stereotyped Britain lives on, even in so recent a film as *Three Men and a Little Lady*, in which a director from the National Theatre (Christopher Cazenove) inhabits a stately home,

With a new production of *My Fair Lady* about to take the stage, David Robinson examines the stage and screen myths that have shaped the American vision of the old country

surrounded by the eternal archetypes of ancient retainers, yokels and comely vicar. The royal myth, too, has retained a grip on Hollywood. The visit of Edward Prince of Wales to the United States in 1924 sparked off a whole cycle of movie daydreams about princes in disguise falling in love with small-town girls.

In 1951, *Royal Wedding* (discreetly retitled *Wedding Bells in Britain*) interweaves a romantic plot involving Fred Astaire and Jane Powell with celebrations of the then Princess Elizabeth's wedding. Actual scenes of the ceremony were juxtaposed with Hollywood's notion of gondolas on the Serpentine and village streets adjacent to the Strand.

Closely akin is the Merrie England myth. America's fascination with lineage and feudal tradition has kept Hollywood's Robin Hood industry flourishing for 70 years and more — even though the latest manifestation, *Prince of Thieves*, has a specially American edge. Sherwood has been given the look of the plains of *Dances with*

Wolves; and Robin, returning from the Crusades, is seen as the period equivalent of a Vietnam vet. A somewhat different aspect of the mythology is the chiaroscuro of Victorian London. In Hollywood's imagery, Scrooge's City, Mr Hyde's Soho, Sherlock Holmes's Marylebone and Jack the Ripper's Whitechapel are indistinguishable. The same smoke-machine fogs swirl through the twisted alleys. The wet, black bricks are dimly lit by street lamps and the glow from taverns, from whose doors painted women stagger as the shadow of their killer looms.

A persistent theme throughout the mythology is the process of confrontation and reconciliation between brash new world and tradition-bound old. The literary prototype, Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur*, has been twice filmed, the last time with Bing Crosby and Sir Cedric Hardwicke. *A Yankee at Oxford* was a British hands-across-the-sea effort of

1938, but inspired various Hollywood parodies, such as *A Chump at Oxford*, *A Yank in the RAF* and *A Yank at Eton*. The latest and most unlikely rip-off is *Oxford Blues*, in which Rob Lowe is an objectionable American kid who cheats his way into Oxford in pursuit of a titled bimbo undergraduate. America's mythical view of Britain reflects a long love-hate, a mixture of derision and awe, envy, two centuries of cultural and social schizophrenia. But Hollywood's vision of a traditional, class-bound Britain largely owes its origins to one formidable woman. The flamboyant, red-haired English novelist Elinor Glyn, who had shocked late Victorian London with her novels of romance and passion, arrived in Hollywood in 1920 and stayed on for most of the decade.

Glyn rebuked Americans for their lack of romance. She taught Rudolph Valentino to kiss the palm instead of the back of a woman's hand. She coined the word "it" to define a particular kind of charisma and sex appeal,

and turned it into a cult. Most of all, her novels and the films defined her own richly romantic view of an aristocratic England.

The impression of an aristocratic, country-house Britain imposed by Glyn was confirmed by the influx of British stage actors who arrived in Hollywood in the 1930s, attracted by the opportunities offered by sound films. They included three knights — Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Sir Guy Standing and Sir C. Aubrey Smith — and a dame, May Whitty. Even those without titles proclaimed aristocratic style if not actual heritage. Mrs Patrick Campbell,

the original Eliza Doolittle, rejected the part of the pawnbroker in *Crime and Punishment* with the words: "I could not possibly become a tradesperson."

The British style and stereotypes that were established then perpetuate themselves today, as America's afternoon television audience rediscovers a magical England that only ever existed in Californian imaginations. But those imaginations did make *My Fair Lady* and *Mrs Miniver*; the British should be grateful for that.

Simon Callow's production of *My Fair Lady* opens at the Open House, Manchester, next Monday.

Not trustworthy enough for treason

One of my oldest friends came to see me last Sunday, a flower of the 1960s, thinning now on top. We have known each other for 25 years, since we were kids at college, when we had scores of hours together every week in plays, newspaper offices, political ructions and muddled gabblings far into a thousand nights. Since 1970, we've hardly ever had more than five consecutive hours together, being restricted to those meal-time intimacies at quarterly intervals which are the interludes for adult friends allowed by families and work. Our Sunday lunchtime gave us four hours. Far for the mid-life course.

We went to a pub and ate themselves omelettes and drank thin bitter. The quality of the repast was, as ever, less important than the talk. We got straight down to those topics that are supposed to be beyond the expressive powers of men, of troubles with women and fears for children, of home and age and sex. No mucky jokes. No sport. We are more like old than new men, a pair of grizzled mariners single-handedly piloting impossible variegated domestic sail in mountainous seas. We agreed that we both felt like that long-lost solo circumnavigator Donald Crow-

hurst, manoeuvring in circles, sending out false signals and going steadily nuts.

After we had walked for an hour by the river in the fading light, the last 20 minutes before he had to go, we talked for the first time that day about his work, which may be more influential for all our lives than anybody you know, since he is a close and trusted advisor to one of the five most important politicians in the country. As ever in our meetings, the personal had outweighed the political, but, listening to his fine calculations of election prospects and tactics, I found myself wishing — as if for the hundredth time — that he was the master, not the leader.

It will never happen. Of all my contemporaries, he is the one nearest to the centre of serious power, and he is peripheral, an attendant not a lord. He will never stand as a candidate for election, being unpushy and not at all eager that you should know his name. The rest of my mob count for nothing in the life of the country. Promising much, we delivered zilch to the political world and made, meanwhile, a steaming hash of our personal lives.

MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon reflects on the days when he had time to dream



Perhaps the last time our group was all together in one place was an October night in 1967. We stood together, ten boys and two girls (Cambridge was like that in those days), at midnight on the parapet of the Silver Street bridge, toasting with vodka the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution and uncertainly singing the *Internationale*, of which we never learned the second verse.

If a similar group of boishie undergraduates had assembled in 1927, 1937, 1947 or 1957 some sure predictions might have been made about their future careers. A couple, at least, might have become cabinet ministers. There might have been a high court judge, some professors, a major novelist or poet and, for sure, a lifelong spy. There might have been a Tynan and a Robin Day.

My lot, by contrast, is a washed-out bunch of broken reeds. One is a gardener. One lives the life of a *dharma bum* in southern Spain. The girls had babies and are now struggling to resume the careers they dropped in their late twenties. One of the boys was sent to prison for a political stretch, after which he became a television executive. Five, at least, became scribblers, hacks and scribes. One is a near-famous wit, a tosser of light japes on radio and television quiz shows. Most of the rest of us are zeroes. No glittering prizes. The KGB and MI5 had our measure truly. They knew better than to take us seriously. None of us was ever invited to mole. I am sure of this. We were not trustworthy enough for treason.

Something must have happened. They were clever kids, smart as whips, radically fired up

to revolutionise the West. They have made, effectively, no difference to the institutions and the distribution of powers in our time.

Before he left London, my old friend asked after another of our number — the only one who was always serious, author of many books of political thought, now professor at a big university. "What will he do now?" my visitor wondered. "His career has been built on the studies of Marxism and Thatcherism — the two most completely dead doctrines of the century. He's beached."

In that, he's not the only one. But he is the only one, I believe, still living with the woman he met and married when we were fab. He married one of the girls on the bridge. I shall be seeing them next week in the northern town where they have lived together for nearly 20 years, and when I ask them how they are getting on they will say what they always say: "Oh you know us: we just go on as usual: nothing ever changes much." They don't seem to know how unusual they are. One personal success in a generation of political failure. Something to boast about to the grandchildren.

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KONIGSBERGER: Engelbart Hagerstrand's best-known opera is *Anders Grend*, but the composer went on to develop the rich vein of innocent lyricism revealed in that fairy-tale piece in his successor, *Königsberger David*. Founding a translation for his new production for English National Opera gives the title as *The Prince and the Goosegirl*. The cast includes Catherine Pope (Goosegirl), Joseph Evans (Prince), Alan Orie (Fiddler) and Sally Burgess (Witch). Design by Sue Blane. Mark Elder conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-381 3161), 7pm.

BALLET DU NORD: Founded in 1983, the young French company makes its British debut offering a strong classical repertoire including a dance-orchestral piece set to Mozart's *Requiem* choreographed by artistic director Jean-Paul Comte, and featuring the London-based Wren Orchestra and a 30-voice choir. First of an afternoon. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-773 8916), 7.30pm.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Richard, wild, bizarre, defying, this show never fails to attract devotees. Richard O'Brien's production, which had an extended run in the West End last year (now directed by Christopher Maltman), returns a nationwide tour and will visit 17 destinations between now and May. The cast includes Peter Sella, Barry Hower, Zella Burrow and Penelope McEwan. Next stop: London's Hackney Empire. King's Theatre, Albert Road, Southsea (0705 620527), 8pm.

ANDREA MANTOVANI: Since one of Mantovani's grandest works, the great series devoted to *The Triumph of*

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

COLE: Part of the royal collection, London seems a logical place to launch the first major retrospective of the painter for nearly 100 years (it goes on to the Metropolitan, New York). Mantegna is unique among 15th-century Italian artists for the impression he gives of passion only just held in check by the disciplines of classical form.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, PICCADILLY: London W1 (01-473 4383), Daily, 10am-6pm, until April 5. Sponsored by Orvis.

ROBYN DENNY: A few artists of the "Madcow generation" have remained in the limelight, but others are decidedly "where are they now?" Denny was a golden boy of the 1970s, when he was only 43. Since then his hard-edged abstraction has faded out of favour.

THE NEW SHOW INDICATES: A gradual softening of edges and flexibility of forms. The question remains: has been or potential modern classic? Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 14a Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01-485 8575), Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until February 28.

LONTANO: Odeon de la Martinez conducts her new music group in the first of two "Futurist" concerts, which explore the ways in which composers are influenced by musical backgrounds other than their own.

Tonight brings the British premiere of Alejandro Vinas's *Algebra on Fire*, first

performance of Michael Ross. The composer's *Thames and the River* is a tribute to the river, with Ross's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion*. The second concert is on Tuesday. See interviews, p. 3. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 7.30pm.

RAMBERT: The dance company begins its new spring season at Stratford performing two mood programmes of work by the group's latest acquisition, dancer Mark Baldwin's first work, *Island*, and then, premiered by the company last November, and a revival of *Widdie*, the 1984 work by artistic director Richard Alston, notable for Richard Smith's spectacular set design of huge, descending, revolving ladders.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (0789 256523), 7.30pm.

PHILHARMONIA: Michael Pether, the conductor, returns to the podium to conduct the *First Piano Concerto*, Robert Schumann's *Concerto*, and the *Concerto* by the composer's *Concerto* overture from Shostakovich's powerful *Irony* (Symphony No. 10).

Parliament, Millway Road, Plymouth (0752 229922), 7.30pm.

BOURNEMOUTH SINFONETTA: The percussionist Stephen Dingle, chief since the age of 12, is the soloist in a Contemporary Music Network work which includes the *Concerto* by the composer's *Concerto*.

Macmillan's equally new *Tryst*, Stravinsky's *Dances Concertantes* and Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*, around the country this week and next (tomorrow at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Tania Vassilyeva).

St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Street, Norwich (0603 764764), 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

ONCE A CATHOLIC: Welcome return of Mary J. O'Malley's romping comedy about convent girls growing up between nuns and lads. 10pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

ORPHANS: Gripping psychological thriller where a wealthy couple is kidnapped by two brothers: the RSC. Prince of Wales Theatre, 100 High Street, Brentford (01-835 1176), Tue-Sat, 8pm, 10.30pm. Final week.

PAINTING CHURCHES: Silk Phillips (excellent) and Leslie Phillips as an elderly Boston couple, Josie Levine and her artistic daughter in a quietly touching family play. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 (01-439 4401), Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.30pm, Sun, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Glorious version of the old thriller, tunes by Offenbach, Verdi and Weber but not Lloyd Webber. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-379 5838), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm, Sat, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm, Sun, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm.

POSTER OF THE COSMOS: London Gay Theatre Company in five American plays, witty or poignant. 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-477 0457), Tue-Sun, 8pm, 10.30pm.

THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UR: Emphatically embracing "Hill" portrait by Anthony Sher in D. Tread's strong production of Brecht. National (Odeon), South Bank, SE1 (01-439 2252), Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, Fri, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, Sat, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, Sun, 7.15pm, 9.15pm.

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Nastiness north of the border

THEATRE

Die Tragödie des Macbeth
Mermaid

MACBETH has often enough been presented as a rough, rude warlord in a barbaric Scotland. Orson Welles played him that way on the screen, and so, more surprisingly, did Michael Redgrave on the stage, arguing that north of the border there lived a "wild, violent race, who slept in their boots and had no time for haircuts". But Scotland can never have looked as primitive as in the *Macbeth* the Schiller Theatre brought from Berlin to London last week. The Dark Ages would be a daunting in this protozoan outlook.

In Katharina Thalbach's fascinatingly perverse production, the nation dwindles to a coarse wooden platform and a few shoddy benches, which are occupied by an assortment of trolls, scarecrows and potato-heads. These are Duncan's thanes, and their main diversion seems to be joining their king in ritual chanting when something gratifyingly nasty happens, such as a massacre offstage. After Duncan's death, a disintegrating haystack on legs also appears. That is Macduff.

Last week, both men were played by Guntbert Wams, clearly a specialist in the gruesome. His Duncan needed only to don a dirty mac and wander into Queen Victoria Street to have ended in the police cells. At any rate, his gaping, toothless mouth breaks into an evil grin at the mere sight of Lady Macbeth's breasts, and he summons up enough senile energy briefly to goose her. Mostly, though, he is so tamely antique, so close to doddering into his own grave, it seems redundant to murder him.

That is not, however, a thought likely to have entered Macbeth's brain, for he scarcely has one. As

played by Marius Wollenklee, he is a brutish lot with a big, stupid face barely able to disguise the malice, pain, gloom, bewilderment, sticky-fingered greed and the other blunt emotions that dunk round his head. As he delivers his first great soliloquy, "if it were done when 'tis done..." he stabs away at a chicken carcass with an awful enthusiasm that makes nonsense of the caveats he inexplicably voices. One would have to search long and hard through the football terraces on a drunken Saturday to find his moral or intellectual equal.

To complain that this distorts Shakespeare is like accusing Scarfe or Steadman of failing to be photographically exact. This *Macbeth* is a deliberate blend of cartoon and rough theatre, reminiscent of Jarry's *Ubu* in its mockery of regal pretension. For Thalbach, the power-hungry belong either in hell or in that downmarket version of the same place, Scotland.

Her approach obviously favours the bold, exciting effect, and delivers quite a few. It will be especially hard to forgive witches who tumble onstage in dark, everyday clothes, only to transform themselves into shimmering spiderwomen in black. They hang from the hemp web that hovers above the stage and converse in grotesquely high, piping voices, like children with electric kazoot. But the losses are equally predictable. Maria Hartmann, in particular, would surely make greater impact as Lady Macbeth were she allowed to explore the character a bit.

As it is, there is little to link the depraved bimbo of her Act I with the broken sob of her sleepwalking scene. Indeed, she is more likely to be remembered for the apron and broom she brings with her on her first entrance. In Thalbach's spectacularly tumbled Scotland, even queens-to-be do their own housework. How backward can a country get?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Maria Hartmann: not allowed to explore Lady Macbeth's character

Losing his nobility

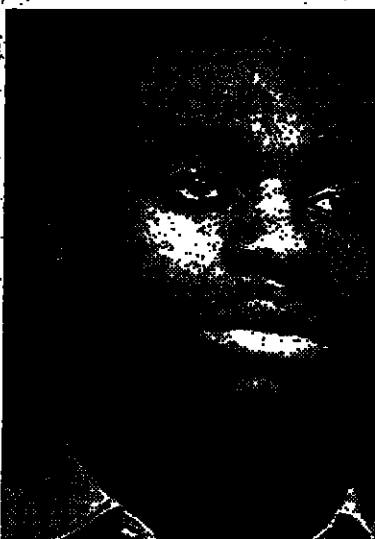
Othello
Baron's Court Theatre

KENNETH TYNAN used to recall a *King Lear* on the New York fringe with the main part played by a woman, the title changed to *Queen Lear* and the Fool's references to Nuncle replaced by "Auntie". Something of the same eccentricity is promised by this severely cut version of another tragedy, adapted by the former paymaster of the 10th Royal Hussars and secretary of Queen's Park Rangers.

Ronald Selwyn Phillips has transplanted *Othello* to an autonomous sultanate off the coast of present-day Africa. Apart from Colonel Othello, a European mercenary, the characters are black. Shakespeare's black interloper becomes a "big white man" and Brabantio's daughter is covered not by a Barbary horse but by a Palomino.

A LEADING British critic has called Peter Barnes "the most viciously brilliant satirist to have emerged since the war". A leading American one claims that, with Pinter, he towers above all other English dramatists "in terms of originality, distinctiveness, theatrical vitality and intellectual power". Both should be tied to chairs, made to sit through Barnes's contributions to the year's Columbus celebrations, and then asked ritually to eat their reviews. Like Pistol his lack of power in this satire, the Three Stooges are university boys and Private Eye's Dave Spart a philosophical mess.

Let me concede that Barnes, who directed as well as wrote, used the small screen in unconventional ways. The New World's discovery and exploitation was a prolonged flash-back, occurring during a conversation between an old, embittered Columbus and his garrulous parrot. There was a bit of Brechtian singalong, and at one point subtitles appeared to tell the spectator who was right about the girl of the globe, the



Reversal: Yomi A. Michaels as Iago; Christopher Toba as Othello

As a mercenary, Othello loses nobility, though perhaps the production implies that the Moor who renounces his culture for foreign service is hardly noble anyway. At any rate, Adam Roberts's production is a small-scale, intimate and conversational. The tiny, pillared acting space beneath the Baron's Ale House is flanked by seats on three sides. Less



Reversal: Yomi A. Michaels as Iago; Christopher Toba as Othello

a theatre in the round than three prosceniums at right angles in an obviously converted wine cellar. The set consists of bright semi-abstract dabs on the walls (design: Clodagh McGuinness).

This production reminds us that Verdi nearly called his opera *Iago*. After a low-key start, Yomi A. Michaels dominates the stage:

Parrot-fashion satire

Bye Bye Columbus
BBC 2

explorer or a cynical Torquemada. Realism was mainly abandoned for caricature.

But caricature, however deliberate, is not a particularly trustworthy means of conveying information or an especially rewarding way of exploring the complexities of history. As used by Barnes, it was as predictable, crude and ineffective as Mr Punch's biting-stick. The originality of his play's style hid a truly awesome unoriginality of content.

For Barnes, self-righteously perched in his late-20th-century eyrie, the past was simple. Columbus was a megalomaniac moron, prepared to take any risk, commit any savagery as

presence, speech and (once warmed up) facial mobility contribute to a beautifully-judged portrait of Othello's trusted ancient (here captain). He needs more confidence, more physical expansiveness, and a production that points the lines and varies the pace more. But here is a discovery. Given the naturalistic criteria of British theatrical casting, Michaels may find it tough but parts must be made for him.

The one white member of the cast is the least distinct. Christopher Toba's young Othello has Clint Eastwood's cheekbones but a foreign accent that sturs and blurs the words. Bianca has vanished: so, more controversially, has Desdemona's bedroom scene, the Willow Song included. Nina Sosanya's lovely, girlish Desdemona has flashes of spirit, a true chieftain's daughter whose occasional note of Sloaneys putulance is not inappropriate. Heather Gillespie's Emilia is first rate, vivid in both anger and devotion, with a slinky glamour that might well indicate an indiscreet past. Andrew Gotti's Major Cassio relies overmuch on come-to-bed eyes, and some of the smaller roles are awful: but for all its oddities and imperfections, the show's integrity gives glims of excitement, tragedy and truth.

MARTIN HOYLE

Pea

because it's all in the day's work and we're men without names". Acting this laborious stuff must have been like doing the breaststroke through glue: which is the only explanation I can offer for the involvement of so many performers of Channel-swimming calibre. Daniel Massey played the main part: Alex Jennings, Harriet Walter and Timothy West supported; and even the voice of Columbus's parrot turned out to be the estimable Jack Shepherd. He it was who squawked the proceedings to a close, opining that God let mild, gentle natives be exterminated because they were mild and gentle, and chose an ignorant windbag to become "everybody's blue-eyed hero, brave, honest and white".

We have heard that before, and will hear it again in 1992. But is political correctness less paralyzing for being spouted by Monty Python? Do not believe it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Television listings, page 14

THEATRES

ADOL

PROFILE

Are women so different?

Odaline de la Martinez, of the European Women's Orchestra, talks to Hilary Finch

The name Odaline de la Martinez can mean the ability to dance a Cuban salsa while playing the jawbone of a donkey, at the same time explaining why Ethel Smythe is a serious rival to Elgar. It can mean the ability to prepare 12 scores for the BBC at two days' notice. And it means, most recently, the energy behind a new all-women's orchestra which, according to Barry Millington writing recently on this page, has created a fundamentally different sound.

The Cuban-born composer, conductor, entrepreneur and now director of the European Women's Orchestra, denies the charge. "I don't believe an orchestra of women sounds any different at all. Just like you can't tell women composers..."

The orchestra started as a political gesture, the response to an invitation from the Chard Festival of Women in Music in the summer of 1990. But it soon became something else besides. "What is different is the whole attitude to work. In all orchestras there is a pecking order: you have to speak through the leader or through the principals. In our orchestra, there's no hierarchy, only co-operation. Henry Wood used to talk about it. He was the first to get women to play in the BBC orchestras, simply because he felt they co-operated so well."

Martinez recently carried out a survey through the Arts Council which revealed that, apart from the BBC orchestras and the CBSO, the proportion of men to women in British orchestras was nine to one, and higher still for principals. But by syphoning off the best women players into an orchestra of their own, isn't the polarity increased?

"We don't want to separate. But right now, we want to celebrate. I discovered that the dynamics of women

working together was very different. There's a rare level of energy: something I had never experienced in any other orchestra I'd worked with. It's to explore this that we exist. Why do we have to excuse ourselves? Nobody had to excuse the London Symphony, the Vienna Philharmonic, in all the years they were men-only."

So the EWO is creating its own board and seeking sponsorship for a year-round calendar of concerts. Its next date is April 25 in Abbotsbury, Dorset, where it will perform Haydn's "Nelson" Mass and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

Then there is the matter of Mendelssohn's *Sister*, the title of Martinez's forthcoming book on women composers. "Virginia Woolf said that if Shakespeare had had a sister who was equally talented, she wouldn't have had a chance. Fanny Mendelssohn was as talented as Felix, I'm convinced of it. Listen to her *Lieder*. There's a stunningly original piano trio, too. The question is not how many symphonies did she write, but why didn't she write them? Her brother said it was fine to compose just as long as she didn't publish. And look at Alma Mahler. The case is outrageous."

Martinez believes it is an urgent necessity to set up a proper musicological network for the discovery and re-discovery of women composers. "If we don't do it, then when our generation goes, we'll be back to square one. Yet male composers hardly get a raw deal in Martinez's hands. Tonight's concert at St John's Smith Square, is an all-male affair, part of a series performed by Martinez's ensemble *Lontano*, and called *Fusionplus*.

The focus is on musical roots, a preoccupation which Martinez ranks second only to the feminist cause. "It reflects where I'm at; and if you don't speak from there, you might as well not speak at all." Included here is Alejandro Vinas, an Argentinian living in Britain, who marries Latin-American vocal rhythms to north European electro-acoustic technology in *Algebra on Fire*. Michael Roesa Cobian is another Argentinian, whose fascination with primitive Latin-American art is expressed in *Thebes*, an experiment in slow-moving colour changes.

Lontano, conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, perform at St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061) tonight at 7.30pm.



Odaline de la Martinez, conductor and composer

Jumping giant Jagger

Privileged view: Mick Jagger in *The Rolling Stones at the Max*, to be screened at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television

Thirty years on, the Rolling Stones are bigger than ever, in Bradford. David Sinclair previews a new film

Imagine sitting in a large cinema as the lights go down. You are facing a screen of vast proportions, 52 feet high by 64 feet wide, and the seating is raked so severely that the head of the person in the row in front of you is roughly at knee-level. The screen fills with a deep swirling blackness, broken by little eddies of blue and twinkling lights. The image is so all-encompassing and disorientating that for a moment it induces a mild sensation of vertigo. This is the world of Imax, the largest film medium ever devised.

"Some people can find the effect a bit overpowering," says André Picard, vice-president of Imax. "Normally, if you just shut your eyes for a few seconds it stops the sensation, but every so often people have to leave."

Moments later, amid a volcanic eruption of pyrotechnics, the screen lights up and the Rolling Stones stride on to the working area of the colossal Steel Wheels stage-set that toured America and Europe in 1989/90. The movie is called *Rolling Stones at the Max*, and it is being screened at the only cinema in Britain capable of utilising the system: the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford.

The application of this

giant filming technique to the biggest tour in the history of rock is a ground-breaking but logical combination. So far the system, which was invented in Canada and launched in 1970, has been used mostly for short (30-40 minute) films with a natural history or wild life theme.

Some Imax screens are 100 feet high, and yet the images, which are ten times as big as those produced by 35mm film, are reproduced with surpassing clarity, thanks to a remarkable "rolling loop" projector system which advances the film horizontally instead of in the conventional vertical direction.

The vivid quality of the picture is impressive, but it is the sheer scale of the enterprise that is so breathtaking, and especially the long shots. As you look out over a sea of waving arms and swaying heads, then look up to the top of the screen, where a distant helicopter buzzes in the darkness above the stadium, you get an extraordinary impression of what it must be like to be on stage with the Rolling Stones.

The effect is reinforced by the clarity of the Imax sound, which has been mixed by the

long-time Stones associate Chris Kimsey in such a way that it follows the camera about the stage. Thus when Ron Wood or Keith Richards (or even, just occasionally, Bill Wyman) is in the centre of the screen, their guitar sound becomes noticeably more prominent, in some ways recreating the characteristics of an onstage monitor mix.

Despite the extravagance of its scale, the movie's ambition is strictly limited in terms of its content. Unlike the voyeuristic "revelations" of Madonna's movie, or the semi-documentary style of previous Stones movies such as *Gimme Shelter*, the 89 minutes of *Rolling Stones at the Max* is comprised almost exclusively of concert footage. Shot during the course of five shows in Turin,

Berlin and Wembley, the movie seeks to create the impression of seeing, from an impossibly good vantage point, a single show from start to finish.

Yet such large and bold images are revealing of the group in other ways. Richards, as always, looks unbelievably ravaged — but the clarity is cruelly revealing of the others too. Even allowing for Jagger's lithe 17-year-old's physique, one is constantly reminded that the Stones are the oldest group in business.

Rolling Stones at the Max may prove to be a turning point: the movie that tilts the Imax film medium towards the goal of commercial viability. It is the first privately-financed feature-length film to have been made in Imax; previous ones have been underwritten by corporate sponsors with no expectation of earning the money back.

At the Max cost \$10 million (£5.58 million) to make. This is a modest sum when compared to the \$5 million spent by Michael Jackson on his 12-minute promotional video for "Black or White", a single from his album *Dangerous*.

Even so, it is estimated that it will take 18 months to two years for the Rolling Stones' costs to be recouped. If costs are recouped, the example of *At the Max* will inspire other production companies that might be considering whether to gamble on the format.

At present there are 77 Imax theatres around the world, and plans for another 15 to be opened in 1992. Imax, the thinking goes, will become commercially viable when it has reached 125 screens worldwide.

Rolling Stones at the Max will be at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford (0274 732277) from February 14 until at least the end of June.

ARTS BRIEF

French flickers

FRANCE produced 156 feature films in 1991, compared with 146 the previous year. This is more than five times the number of features made in Britain in 1991, indicating the United Kingdom's plunging share in European production. The figures, just published by the French National Cinema Centre, show that more than 50 per cent of French films were international co-productions. During the same period the share of the national box office for French films fell, under the pressure of Hollywood competition, from 37 per cent to 30 per cent.

Charity hire

THOSE whose appetites for steamy Cumbrian drama were whetted by the BBC TV adaptation of Melvyn Bragg's novel *A Time to Dance* will undoubtedly be hurrying to the Palace Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, on March 14 for a one-night-only performance of Bragg's musical *A Hired Man*. Written with the composer Howard Goodall (who also supplied the music for *A Time to Dance*) *A Hired Man* was first staged in London in 1984. The cast from that production, with the addition of Glenda Jackson as narrator, will perform this concert version. The evening is in aid of cancer charities.

Last chance...

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS, the strangely-named Brooklyn duo of John Flansburgh and John Linnell, enjoyed a Top 10 hit two years ago with the eccentric "Birdhouse in Your Soul". Now they have come back to see if they can raise a similar level of interest in their new single "The Statue Got Me High". Doubtless there will be more wacky harmony pop, light-weight rock 'n' roll and oddball interplay with their fans on offer when they end their current whistle-stop tour of Britain at Bloomsbury, London WC1 (071-387 9629) tonight and tomorrow.

TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES

Labouring for the Arts? Mark Fisher interviewed by Richard Morrison

Peake through Glass

THEATRE

David Glass and John Constable have turned two Mervyn Peake novels, *Titus Groan* and *Gormenghast*, into one stage piece, as they tell Jeremy Kingston

Cruelty and murder: Steerpike (Richard Attlee, above) and Barquentine (Paul Hamilton) in *Gormenghast*

Into the bleak, post-war world of 1946, a novel appeared that is like no other in English literature: Mervyn Peake's *Titus Groan*. Peake earned his living as an illustrator and the book is dense with images, composed in a frequently ornate language that takes its time to create a closed but vivid landscape — the world of Gormenghast Castle.

This is a world of crushing rituals that must be performed because they have always been performed. The characters bear extraordinary names — Squelch and Prunessquallor, Barquentine and Steerpike — and the castle's labyrinthine corridors and multitude of rooms are the setting for the human virtues of valour, love and tenderness, and for the exercise of ambition, cruelty and murder.

After 500 pages the book's hero, Titus, is only one year old. But at the end of its sequel, *Gormenghast*, he is on the verge of manhood and engages in a fight to the death with Steerpike, the kitchen-boy who has clawed his way to within an inch of wrestling supreme power.

The novels have fascinated the theatre director David Glass since he read them as a student in the 1970s. For 15 years he has hoped to find a way to stage them.

Glass has been central to the revival and development of physical theatre in this country: two years ago he founded the David Glass Ensemble to tour his *Popeye in Exile* and then *Bozo's Dead*, which he created with the writer John Constable. They have now distilled from Peake's 1,000 pages a two-and-a-half hour work, *Gormenghast*, that began a national tour last week and comes to Battersea Arts Centre in March.

"What initially appealed to me," says Glass, "was the sense of rebellion against a dead weight of tradition. At

the same time it's not fantastical like Tolkien. There's no magic. If you want to get rid of someone, you stick a knife in him. And this rebellion is expressed through a tight family drama. There are these two rebellions: Titus from the top of the heap and Steerpike from the bottom. Steerpike's revolt against the

established order is the driving force, but what is so fascinating is that Titus, in deciding to defend Gormenghast against him, comes to reject his own inheritance."

Constable maintains that the very vastness of the novel made adaptation easier. "If you're adapting a very slim

volume, it's easy to get caught up in fidelity and difficult to break free and create your own vision of it. We knew we needed to take enormous liberties with the shape and the characters.

"The joy of writing for David and knowing he's not a naturalistic director is that I could write a stage direction that would be horrifying to most directors, such as 'Flay descends through a labyrinth of corridors', or even more, 'The Castle is flooded'. I could write these apocalyptic directions, but know that David wouldn't dream of interpreting them literally. He'd find a stylised, heightened means to realise them."

"The vivid images that a novelist can create in your mind's eye, only shrink if you try to put them on stage, even if you had an infinite budget and built a castle. It's far better to create evocative images and let the audience fill them in."

"Our set is very simple: a balcony and seven door frames. Whenever there's a journey it's generally only one actor who makes the journey: the other six actors are working their butts off moving the set. So when Flay descends to the kitchen, the other six are moving the doors out of the set and creating a whole network of corridors."

"We see ourselves as trying to serve Peake's vision, not slavishly, but by creating our own world that echoes his voice. It would be an oversimplification to say that the ritualistic, visual elements are David's and the psychological elements are mine: there's an overlap. But with two working together there is tension and balance. The audience don't just get a maelstrom of images, and equally they don't just get a psychological drama."

Gormenghast is at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, tonight; at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Heddon, on Saturday and is at the Battersea Arts Centre (071-223 2223) March 17-April 5.

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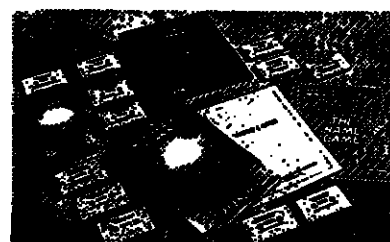
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The boycott may be over, but 'attitude' still matters in South Africa, says Arthur Goldstuck



Unassuming style: Whoopi Goldberg was happy to talk to the locals



A "basilisk with heartburn": Spike Lee made few friends in Soweto

There is one word that separates two of Hollywood's hottest tickets, and that is "attitude".

Hollywood director Spike Lee has it. Hollywood actress Whoopi Goldberg does not.

And when the two avowed opponents of apartheid found themselves on South African soil in the same week, this difference was more revealing than any political statements they might have made.

Spike Lee, the film maker described by a South African observer as a "basilisk with heartburn", jetted in last month with an announcement that his plane from Nairobi had been delayed by a bomb threat, which he was sure had been aimed at him.

"I don't think it was a coincidence," he told a press conference. "We've had bomb threats on [the set of] *Jungle Fever*. We are used to it now."

During his five-day visit, Mr Lee steadfastly clung to his self-image of an African American returning to his roots. But to most South Africans, he was yet another rude New Yorker coming in and calling the shots, just as Paul Simon's management thought they knew more about South African politics than the local tour organisers.

At the other end of the spectrum is Whoopi Goldberg, the star of *The Color Purple*.

In South Africa to star in a film version of *Sarafina!*, the Broadway hit musical set in the 1976 Soweto uprising, Ms Goldberg generated enormous goodwill with her unassuming style. She delayed her visit in order to secure advance approval from the various performing arts bodies.

The apparent purpose of Mr Lee's visit was to shoot brief background scenes for *Any Means Necessary*, his \$33 million film on the life of US civil rights activist Malcolm X. An added motive however appeared to be the enormous political credibility South African scenes could add to the film, a selling angle calculated to reassure anxious Hollywood moguls.

Mr Lee's 1989 film, *Do The Right Thing*, which cost only \$6 million, propelled him into the mainstream of Hollywood film makers — company he despised, and didn't mind saying

How to do the right thing

so. Mr Lee had refused to have any of his films released in South Africa, but last August he allowed three screenings of *Do The Right Thing* at the annual *Weekly Mail* Film Festival. The organisers hope to get similar dispensation for *Jungle Fever* this year.

Black journalist Sean Badal, given precisely 15 minutes to interview Mr Lee for the *Weekly Mail*, said it felt as if he were "about to interview a hidden drug lord in Colombia".

"He has an air of studied superciliousness that comes either with a great deal of practice or an avowed distrust of humanity," Mr Badal says.

Despite this attitude, or perhaps because of it, the boycott lobby fell over itself to approve his visit.

The African National Congress (ANC) had welcomed Mr Lee's intended visit, in line with its view that the cultural boycott should be phased out.

The rival Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) whose youth movement, Azapo, sparked the protests against Paul Simon's tour earlier this year, may have withheld its blessing until Mr Lee was already on his plane heading south, but it gave it without being asked.

Mr Lee had made no contact with the movement before his arrival, and was in the country three days before he met them, but that was OK: his credentials in "furtherance of the black agenda for liberation are beyond doubt", they announced.

They seemed to have no qualms

about the commercial motives of his visit (a central objection to Mr Simon's visit). After meeting Mr Lee, Azapo's cultural secretary, Steven Peters, said that Mr Lee had "satisfied two important criteria. He identifies with and supports the black liberation movements here, and he has agreed to undertake development work in the country by conducting two workshops."

The workshops turned out to be question-and-answer sessions with aspirant film workers; Mr Lee graced them with monosyllabic "yes" and "no" answers.

In sharp contrast to Mr Lee's arrogance, Ms Goldberg's personality won instant friends. "As soon as she landed here, she became a South African," says Mbongeni Ngema, the creator and co-producer of *Sarafina!*. "She's very, very down to earth. She hasn't got that superstar kind of ego."

Ms Goldberg's modesty sometimes reached alarming proportions. She refused to be put on the film's credit list above Leteti Khumalo, a local star who plays the title role. She turned down a Winniebag (a luxury mobile home) in favour of the same caravan everyone else used on set.

Between shoots at the Soweto matchbox houses, which serves as home for Ms Goldberg's character in *Sarafina!*, rather than returning to her caravan she often stayed to chat with the real neighbours who had gathered to watch.

This was in marked contrast to the environment in which she found herself when Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, hosted a cocktail

party for her at the palatial home of the controversial insurance millionaire Douw Steyn.

A *Sarafina!* cast member says: "Whoopi was miserable. After days in Soweto, it was too much for her. She couldn't believe that Mandela — a man of the people — would choose a place like that to welcome her."

Like Mr Lee, Ms Goldberg did her duty at one of the obligatory workshops demanded of all cultural visitors. But her session at a community arts centre in Soweto was unlike Mr Lee's. She answered questions with willingness, conviction and passion. She talked of the "small roof" she had grown in the South African soil, and of having become part of the history of the country.

She reserved a rare barb for Azapo, which had told the media, on her arrival in the country, that it had "declared war on Whoopi Goldberg".

"I didn't like getting messages through the newspapers. This was from the brothers! Declaring war on me was saying they'll shoot me."

Azapo had made the call during the heat of the campaign against Mr Simon but quickly changed its tune. The ensuing embarrassment may well have been a factor in its eager approval of Spike Lee's visit.

Ms Goldberg also managed to avoid the naivety which had plagued Mr Simon and his management. The singer had professed a commitment to helping South Africa's underprivileged, while giving the state-owned broadcasting corporation exclusive access for interviews. And when threats of violence appeared to have kept black fans away from his concerts, his management blamed the media.

In due course, both *Any Means Necessary* and *Sarafina!* will be released to the world, and analyses of both arts and politics will deliver their verdicts on which will have done most for civil rights and racial equality.

But only one of the two personalities will have left a lasting impact on the people of South Africa. Only one of the two will be able to look back on a climactic chapter of South Africa's history and say: "I was part of that." And it won't be Spike Lee.

Putting men back together again

The comedian Robert Llewellyn looks at men ripe for reconstruction

A simple lunchtime conversation was what started it. I was talking to a new acquaintance who had been through the 1970s in much the same way as me. College drop-out, long-haired hippy, living on a hillside in Wales, wearing a shrunken Afghan sweater and rainbow painted wellington boots.

He'd been in therapy, men's groups and genital balancing weekend intensives. He'd searched for his internal parent, found him, lost him again and become a graphic designer.

We compared notes, there seemed to be a pattern, and on talking to other men of my acquaintance I started to form some rash and unfounded generalisations in the field of men and sexual politics.

I wanted to try to record the changes in the male response to feminism over the past 20 years. I wanted to see if all men were sick and tired of being criticised by women just because they did not do the washing up — or if they were responding more positively.

In doing so I came across a group of men whom I could best describe as "reconstructed".

I like to use the analogy of an old house to clarify the concept of male reconstruction.

In 1970 the house was empty, soon to be taken over as a communal squat. It then went through a period of change, or growth into being a

wholefood community warehouse, a rape crisis centre and finally being gutted, redesigned and lived in by a non-nuclear family unit.

By 1990 it looked the same on the outside, but internally it was very different. The house was lean, mean and moodily looking. Particular attention was paid to the bathroom, but above all this house gave good kitchen.

Reconstructed men emerged in the 1990s, after a long period of self examination, as a new breed of male.

A reliable way of identifying them is whether or not they indulge in blame re-alignment. This is the practice of shifting the blame for any problem in his life from himself to a series of target groups. Let me quote John Blake, a member of my study group:

"I was driving to work one morning, straining over the back to find my sandwiches while my wife packs every day. Then something went wrong and the car ploughed into this bus stop and killed a few people."

"Well, I got out and all these bystanders were looking

at me. I said, 'Don't look at me, if my wife had put those sandwiches where I told her, none of this would have happened. Anyway, it's a stupid place to put a bus stop, you should sue the council.'"

This is the level of human understanding that a reconstructed man has had to rebuild from. Always blaming someone else, never remembering to shop for food, using women as receptacles for their anger, violence and lust, or as cushions against



Signs of growth: Robert Llewellyn

their fears, inadequacies and self pity.

I first became aware of the phenomena of reconstructed men in June 1987. I was having a dinner party with a mixed group of friends — architects, philosophers, feminist activists, arts administrators, teachers and graphic designers.

All the men present had been through a great deal of personal growth, myself included.

Popular interest in this area has been inspired by Robert Bly's book, *Iron John*. However, reconstructed men found their inner wild man way back. I am dealing with a more advanced group here. But the recent interest cannot be ignored. Books such as *The Way Men Think* by Liam Hudson and Bernadine Jacob, and John D. Spefford's best seller, *Men Who Like Women For About Ten Minutes Then Get All [B] and Run Off Without Explanation*, claim to notice a desire in men to change.

I need to point out that I am dealing here with a very

small, specific group of men. They have a mainly liberal, soft left political outlook, they are generally heterosexual, although they would have quite a few gay friends and they will be in the 30 to 40 year age bracket.

They will be aware that only 14 per cent of men in the British Isles have ever cleaned a lavatory. They will be among this 14 per cent. I know this because they will publicly make a big show of doing their share of child care and housework. They will find joy in this daily drudgery. They know they are posing but they still do it. This is the circular nature of reconstructed behaviour.

One member of my study group explains it thus: "I know women think men don't do enough housework. I do more than my share. I do all of it. I tell everyone this is the case. My partner backs me up on this as she no longer has to do anything."

"People think I am striking a sexual political pose in the hope that feminist women will say, 'All men are pigs, except for Dave. He's really sweet.' They will be right, this is precisely why I am doing it, but I am still doing it. Therefore a step has been made."

There are other areas of behaviour which set the reconstructed man apart. For example, looking or leering at women in the street.

"I do find some women I see deeply sexually stimulating," says one group member.

"When this happens I allow my fantasies full flight, but not, as many people may imagine, on a purely sexual level. I imagine myself in a long-term, emotionally complex and fraught relationship with her. I imagine the stresses of child rearing would have on our lives together, jealousy, infidelity, all these rich areas of human emotion."

"By the time I have finished, the woman will have disappeared and I can get on with my life."

British men stumbling towards an understanding of themselves come up against a background of negative images. "Self-indulgent idiot" and "navel-gazing git" are terms which easily spring to mind. None the less some men are starting to deal with emotional subjects previously seen as being firmly in the female domain. The next decade will reveal whether this is a good thing.

The *Reconstructed Heart*, a lecture written and performed by Robert Llewellyn, will be shown on Channel 4 at 11pm, Wednesday February 12.

TOMORROW

"It is difficult to talk about sex sensibly in France. Either there are silly jokes or else strict moralizing"

Libby Purves meets Mme Veronique Neiertz, the French minister for women's rights, on the Women's Page on Wednesday

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Tokens one and two were printed last Saturday and yesterday. The third token is printed below. Throughout the rest of this week, from Wednesday to Saturday, February 8, *The Times* will print a further four tokens. On Saturday we will also print full booking information and a full list of all the countries and hotels where you can stay, together with a price list for each hotel and the insurance details.

If you follow Rio de Janeiro's magnificent coastline along the southern beaches, you come across the Sheraton Rio Hotel & Towers like a light-house on the rocks. It sits on the water's edge and looks back down the winding coast as if from out at sea.

From this privileged position it is easy to see why Rio's landscape is unique. Somehow a large bustling city has managed to fit more or less neatly into the rolling contours of Rio's famous coast and hills. In the middle of a crowded concrete-covered street a rugged green hill will emerge, while Copacabana beach is just ten minutes away from the commercial district. Some see this stark

contrast between nature and urban development as a problem. How can a large city throbbing with vitality also cope with having some of the world's most scenic beaches made for relaxation and nothing else?

The Sheraton is one of the answers for the tourist. As a hotel situated on the edge of town, it is easy to imagine you are far away from the city. And yet a five-minute taxi ride or a 15-minute walk and you are on Ipanema beach or among the chic boutiques.

The largest of the five-star hotels and one of just two that can be called a resort hotel, the Sheraton, has beautifully situated outdoor facilities. They sit between the sea and

rocks under the shade of well designed tropical landscape gardening. As well as three swimming pools, three tennis courts, bars and restaurants, there are plans to build a large bamboo and straw "maloca", a traditional Indian house to bring in new musical entertainment.

More restaurants, shops, sports and beauty facilities are found in the main complex of the hotel, as well as a special "hotel within a hotel" for the business executive.

The Sheraton Towers offers extra facilities, including a personal butler and secretarial services.

Recommended tours include the traditional visits to the famous Sugar Loaf mountain and Statue of Christ, a picnic high above the city in Tijuca forest and a visit to a samba show.

Brazil is different from every other Latin-American country and Rio is different to the rest of Brazil. Rio has a distinct hedonistic vibrance, which probably comes from its reputation as the country's samba capital.

Rio can also be used as the gateway to the continent's most varied country. The summer imperial capital of Petropolis is an hour's drive south down the coast and a favourite with the Carlocas, as residents of Rio are known.

Further afield are the Amazon rainforest, vast natural swamplands and the futuristic capital, Brasilia.



Taste of holiday adventure: the Sugar Loaf mountain towering above Rio de Janeiro

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• Further information will appear each day in *The Times* up to Saturday, February 8. Thereafter, for general enquiries, call the Flexibreaks Helpline on 071-229 9660. For travel-related enquiries call Flexibreaks Travel Service on 071-387 2380, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm (excluding Bank holidays).

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لنا من الاصل

Making hard work of play

Do the television-hyped, supposedly smart electronic toys make for smarter children? Victoria McKee reports

Two toy fairs took place in London last week. One, displaying the carefully-crafted wooden houses, trains and dolls that indulgent grandparents love to buy, was organised by the tiny British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association's show at Earl's Court, housed the television-hyped plastic and electronic toys for which children clamour.

The toy makers made absolutely no educational claims, whereas the manufacturers boasted numerous "smart" toys — controlled by electronics more sophisticated than those in many PCs — which, the implication went, would make for smarter children.

There were baby dolls with vocabularies running to 18 different sentences — so cleverly programmed that they no longer repeat themselves but interject comments, seemingly at random. "So she'll never ask for a ponytail after she's just asked for plait," Little Chatterbox's demonstrator proudly said.

There were "interactive" mobile phones, talking books, "video painter" games and even shape-sorting games that offer voice-synthesised encouragement for having put the round peg in the round hole.

And then there were some quite sophisticated kiddie "computers" and educational games. What the industry describes as ELAs — electronic learning aids — is one of the few growth areas in a stagnant toy market.

A report last month by The Economist Intelligence Unit noted that the market for ELAs was small compared with that for electronic games (£325 million estimated for 1991), but that its recent growth made the market's importance disproportionate to its current size.

The market for 1991 was valued at £23 million, which is double that of 1988, when the only two significant suppliers were Texas Instruments and Adam Leisure/Grandstand. Now VTech, Serif, Tomy, Matchbox, Playmobil and other manufacturers have been tempted into the field.

Texas Instruments' pioneering Little Professor, developed in 1976, is still going strong and has sold some three million units. Texas's "Speak and Spell", made famous in the film ET, has sold eight million copies worldwide since the extraterrestrial used it to phone home.

The latest offerings include Pre-Computer 2000, which teaches computer literacy, Super Smart

Start, with a 200-word vocabulary to teach maths and spelling, and "Computer Kid", a compact dual screen teaching device disguised as a toy computer.

These previously international toys, which are made in the Far East and the United States, will soon become more country-specific so that, in Britain, they will follow the National Curriculum — as Euromat's popular "Fun School" computer software packages already do.

Parental approval is considered a powerful factor in favour of ELAs. So do these supposedly smart toys make for smarter children? I put this question to several leading psychologists in the field of children's play and development.

Professor Jeffrey Goldstein, professor of social psychology at the University of Utrecht, is cautious in his endorsement. "There isn't any toy that has a specific effect for all children," he says. "For the best results generally the outcome has to be uncertain, the process uncertain, and there needs to be a contribution from the player or players. The toy has to have enough mystery and surprise and the child has to provide the skills to go further."

But give a very structured, predictable toy to an imaginative child and he or she will probably play with it in an imaginative way, Professor Goldstein believes. "A technological toy provides an introduction to technology that can be useful in careers 20 years on, and even with video games there's a learning process that takes place: children play them with no instructions and figure out very complicated rules, learning by experience in a way their parents don't understand."

"That is a very useful skill which isn't taught in schools — abstracting rules from experience," he says, "but I would be loath to use these things as intelligence tests."

Dr Jacqueline Jukes of University College, London — a student of Professor Goldstein's who has just completed her doctoral thesis on aggression and toys — is sceptical of their advantages.

"Parents are concerned. They say: 'My little girl only plays with My Little Pony and Barbie — is she going to be a bimbo? But you'd have to be a merchant banker to aspire to Barbie's lifestyle — and even Teenage Mutant Turtles can be constructive if they are played with in a way that teaches strategy and teamwork. Some parents who are very



At play: Dr Jacqueline Jukes, of University College, London, who wrote her doctoral thesis on aggression and toys, watching James, 9, and Anna, 7

ambitious for their children buy so many 'educational' toys that they can actually put their children off learning — particularly if they buy toys designed for older age groups which frustrate the child."

Just as aggressive children are likely to play aggressively with their Tiny Tears doll or a toy gun, she has found that clever children will play creatively — even with the ubiquitous cardboard box and wooden spoon.

"A toy without a particular purpose is very good for a child who can put his or her own stamp on it. There is undoubtedly a link between doing well academically and being good at fantasy and creative play," Dr Jukes says. "A toy can't be either clever or not clever. It can only interact with a child. It's insulting to assume that a child will respond only to what the toy does."

That said, she feels that electronic toys can be useful teaching aids for those with learning difficulties,

because of the machines' infinite patience. There is little doubt that human input — preferably parental — is essential to a child's development. One fear voiced about the new generation of "intelligent", interactive, toys is that lazy adults may welcome them as a substitute for their time.

Professor Goldstein does not consider this a worry. "A good parent will be a good parent with or without these toys — and a bad parent a bad one," he says. "The best way to produce a clever child is to be a clever parent — and to give a child a wide range of things to play with and let them choose. Toy libraries are a wonderful institution for this reason."

Dr Joan Freeman, a psychologist who has specialised in studying the development of gifted children, noticed that they did not seem to play with many toys. "They were almost too busy to play with toys. Nor did they watch television as much as other children

do. They had lots of collections of things and terrific interests that they would rather investigate than go through a procedure that someone else had thought up," she says.

"They were more likely to try to create their own computers than to play with a toy one. They had parents who gave them time — although there is no reason why that should counteract having toys."

Dr Freeman says "a 'clever' toy can be a very unsuitable toy, and some of these very heavily programmed toys can leave very little room for the imagination. 'I'm sure it's much better to have a doll who can say anything in a child's imagination than one which is programmed to say 18 specific things. But these 'clever' toys are not meant for gifted children. They're for the average child, whose parents might aspire for them to be gifted, and for many they might be fun, even helpful."

TOYING WITH THE BIG KIDS

● Last year, the most popular new adult toy was a plastic doll with detachable limbs and head, designed to be ripped apart. The doll comes in various effigies, from traffic wardens to football referees and mothers-in-law. The effigy of the "wife" carries the words "Till death us do part" and was condemned by women's groups for inspiring violence against wives. The dolls, called Tear-Apart Dolls, come from America and were launched by StarCase, a Worcester-based company specialising in adult toys.

● The latest craze among grown-ups is for the Thunderbirds kits, which are exact replicas of Thunderbirds 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the television series. Aficionados can also buy a model of the island, complete with hangars and kit-form puppets of

Lady Penelope and Parker. ● Soft toys are the most perennially popular adult toys. Teddy bears are the top sellers. Sales of soft toys quadruple towards Valentine's day.

● Nintendo Game Boy has swiftly become the favourite adult video game.

● Monopoly has been on the list of adult best-selling toys since the 1930s. Trivial Pursuit is the third best-selling board game.

● Adults love train sets as much as children. Big kids go for complex models from Germany, such as Fleischmann, where the trains can cost up to £100.

● Radio-controlled cars and planes are also popular with adults. Adults like the do-it-yourself kits, which range in price from £100 to £800.

Alice Thomson

And so to sleep...

Many new parents cry out for a little peace and quiet — particularly when walking the baby at 3am

A baby with dark circles under the eyes, ratty and hallucinating from lack of sleep is not often seen. These are the hallmarks of a new parent.

Sleeplessness is not the baby's problem: it's the parents'. And most own that broken nights are the single greatest trial during the early weeks and months.

Parents who have "previous" know this. When experienced mothers ask trainees, "is yours a good baby?", they are actually asking, "does it sleep through the night?" Babies take as much sleep as they need, when they need it. Some newborns will sleep for 16 to 18 hours in 24, others far less. By three months, 70 per cent of babies are having most of their sleep during the night. Some take their sleep in convenient stretches of six hours or so; others will wake ten or 12 times a night.

If all babies remained silent while they were awake, the duration and randomness of their sleeping patterns would not be an issue. It is because babies, when not sleeping, are crying, that their parents despair.

Chris Carter, a mother of three from south London, recalls her own experience: "My daughter was sickly from birth. She cried, she screamed, for 11 months she never slept for more than two hours at a time. My doctor said there was nothing wrong. Night time was worst, pacing the floor with a yelling baby you couldn't quieten."

"One evening I put a pillow over her head. I knew I had to have help. I rang the Samaritans and they put me in touch with Cry-sis. They listened. They let me cry, and talk through the guilt."

Encouraged by a volunteer from this support group, Ms Carter returned to her doctor. Her daughter was discovered to have a lactose allergy. After treatment, her daughter slept. Now, four years later, Ms Carter staffs one of Cry-sis's phone lines.

The first sleep clinic was set up at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in the early 1980s to examine the problem.

Jo Douglas, a consultant clinical psychologist, believes the nights are brighter

now for parents. "There has been a tremendous shift — a recognition that the needs of a whole family, mothers, fathers and wakeful children, have to be taken into account. Now there are sleep clinics around Britain," she says. "But the service is by no means comprehensive, and there is still no national listing of sleep clinics."

A planned change is possible, however, both through such clinics and the paperback, *My Child Won't Sleep* (Doubleday, Penguin £3.30). It is based on techniques of behaviour management — training babies into family-friendly sleeping patterns.

One effective method is "checking". When a child starts to cry, the parents go to him, "to reassure him, stroke him and tuck him down in a deliberate manner... without undue sympathy or contact, so that the child receives the message that he is not going to be picked up and should go back to sleep."

The technique requires considerable determination from the parents, to endure the crying, until the new pattern has been established. Adherents, however, know that it works (within four to 14 days) for those who can see it through.

In the opposite corner stand those who believe that continuous access to the comforting physical presence of a parent is the key to success.

Three in a Bed (Deborah Jackson, Bloomsbury Publishing, £9.99) explores the reasons why mother and baby should not be separated for sleep, and proposes family bedsharing as an effective recipe for peaceful nights.

Parents who have become enforced insomniacs are of-

fered a great number of other options. Remedies range from ancient to modern, from high-technology to low cunning. These include: inserting an electronic device under the mattress to emulate a mother's heart beat; getting your GP to prescribe Phenagan (an antihistamine, which acts as a sedative); and swaddling the baby. There is plenty to buy: orthodontic dummies to suck; cry-activated mobiles to entertain the wakeful baby; nursery lamps and candle toys that glow in the dark. You can even drive the baby around the block in a family car.

Different parents have faith in different soporific sound systems. There are those who swear by singing hymns, turning on the vac-

uum cleaner, playing flute music. One product whose effectiveness has been internationally tested is the Jaycee Baby Soother tape. Its inventor, Roger Wannell, a sociologist in Bristol, describes the tape as "a rhythmic sound with a background of pink noise", pink noise being "a specific band of sound within the whole noise spectrum". Research indicates the noise will calm 92 per cent of all crying babies.

To the untrained ear, it sounds like the hiss of an untuned television set. But when played to crying babies — British, Indian, Hungarian and Japanese — the average time it takes for the baby to stop crying is three and a half minutes.

The Baby Soother does not claim to put babies to sleep, only to calm their crying, but trial data shows that more than half the babies, once quieted this way, fall asleep. So whether it is a texture or a technique, a noise in pink or a nightlight in blue, something will work. Eventually all children go to sleep.

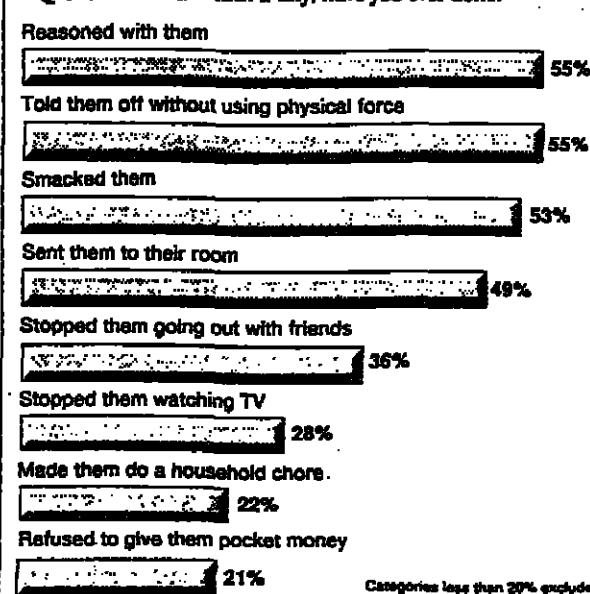
DAVINA LLOYD

● The writer is the editor of Practical Parenting

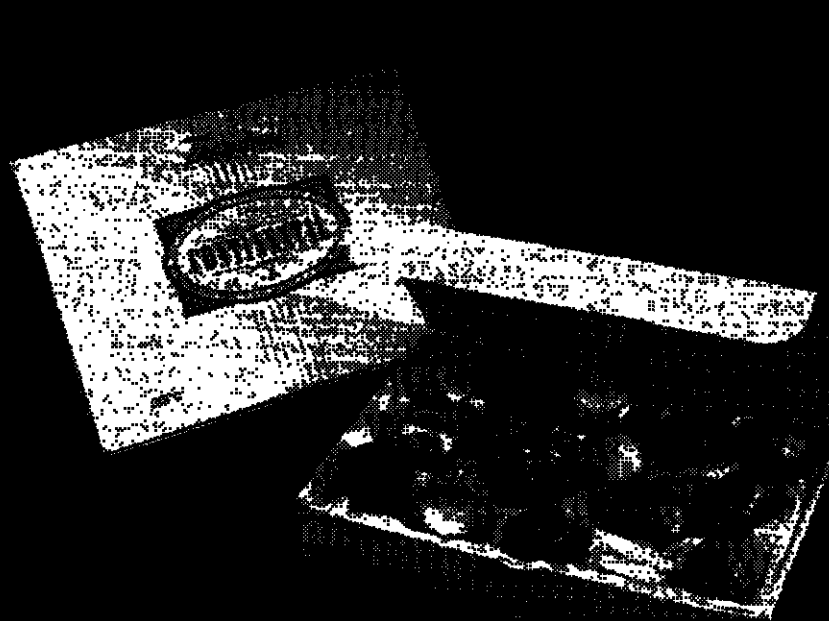
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Better out of court

THE ARTWORK COMPANY

Alternatives to litigation are gaining ground, writes Philip Naughton, QC

Walk around the Law Courts in the Strand at about 10.30 in the morning. People, apparently quite ordinary except for their look of bewilderment, can be seen clustered around characters in the costume of the English Bar. These characters are shrouded in black gowns and topped by periwigs, both men and women, the last followers of 18th-century fashion.

A certain amount of frenzied activity goes on, rather like that of courting magpies. The people in the cluster gesticulate, frown and separate, only to come together in urgent debate. Finally, they all pour into court.

You have been watching the process of "settlement at the door of the court". The judge enters, a barrister stands and says: "I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that the parties have reached agreement."

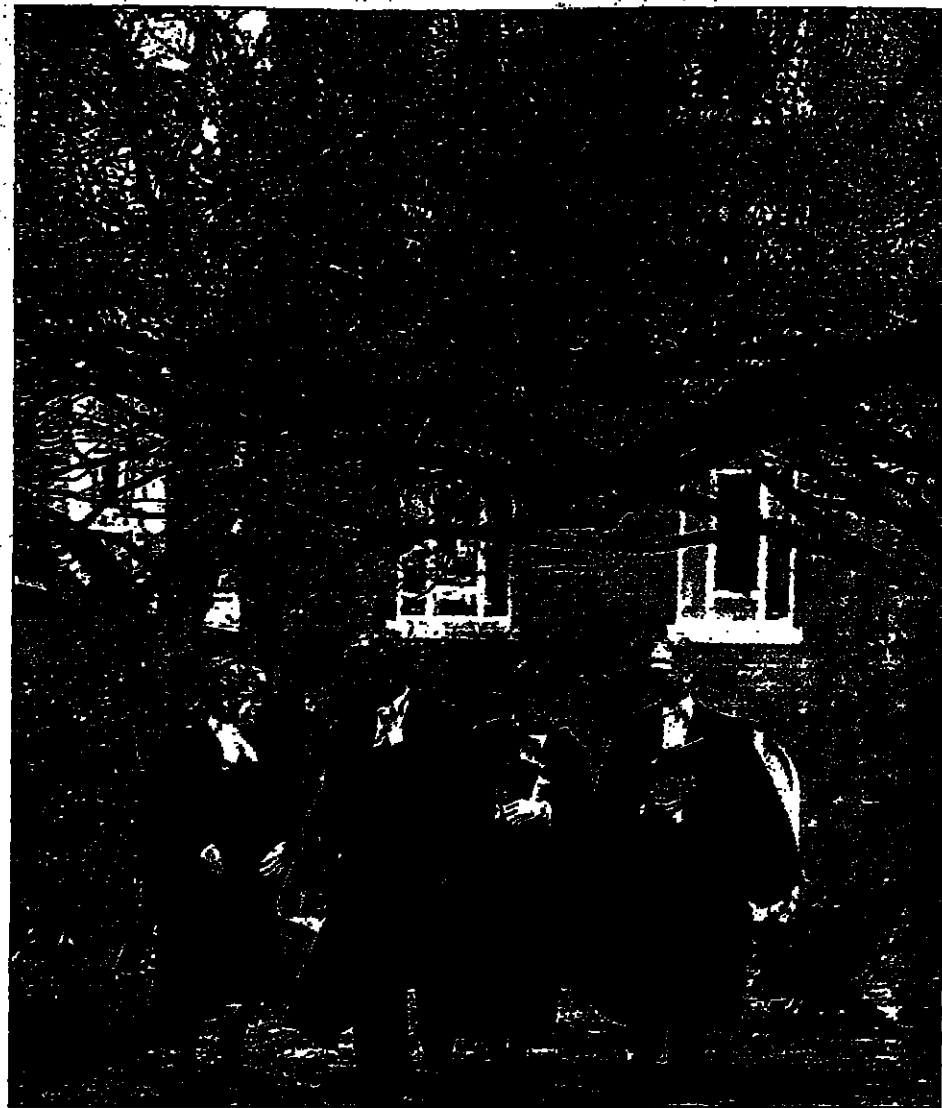
Such settlements are the daily norm of our system. Most cases begun in both county court and High Court settle. Unhappily, however, the compromise is reached when nearly all the costs of a full trial have been incurred and the judge's day has been wasted.

There is nothing like the pressure of imminent trial to make litigants face reality, but the impartial observer may wonder why the dispute had to come so close to the brink, and at such cost.

Barristers pride themselves — rightly, I think — on their ability to negotiate settlement. However, the door of the court is not the right place to exercise such skills. In some cases there may be good reasons for delaying settlement until the last minute, but in others the common excuses could be overcome.

A main obstacle has been the programming of preparation for trial. It is only just before trial that a party knows how much a claim is worth and how strong his evidence will be. To an extent, changes in court procedure are forcing lawyers to review the traditional programming to meet new requirements for early disclosure and exchange of witness statements but there is much still to be done.

Two other obstacles to early settlement have been the lack of opportunity to start settlement negotiation without appearing weak, and problems in communicating with the other side. Litigation is often tense, confrontational and unfriendly. Even the words used are hostile: adversary,



Learned friends: much of their work is now settled before it can reach court

opponent, interrogate, trial, summons and so on.

In the United States, these same obstacles were faced by lawyers, and, more significantly, their clients. There, most civil cases are heard by juries, irrespective of complexity, and each party bears its own costs, win or lose.

About 12 years ago a movement to introduce methods of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), particularly mediation, began to make headway. At the same time the judges came to realise that without innovation they could not cope with a rising tide of litigation and began to bring in novel alternatives for resolving cases.

The mediation technique has become standardised. A neutral person agreed by the parties or nominated by the court or a specialist organisation meets the parties and their representatives. Each

party presents its case in summary and then retires to a separate room.

The neutral then meets each in confidence, exploring the strengths and weaknesses of each case and seeking settlement opportunities that might be in both parties' interests.

The neutral moves between the parties with suggestions, offers, comments. Most mediations arranged by specialist organisations result in settlement. Where the mediation is arranged by the court, between a third and a half settle. The mediation hearing rarely takes longer than a day and it can be arranged inside a month.

In a remarkably short time, little more than ten years, ADR has become an important element of dispute resolution in the US. The courts of most states have voluntary or compulsory ref-

erences to mediation or more exotic alternatives. Innumerable firms offer ADR services.

In June 1989 I described in *The Times* new ideas of ADR, which I had been studying in the US, particularly mediation. In England then, ADR was almost unknown, apart from mediation services in employment and family law. There was one small commercial organisation offering a mediation service, International Dispute Resolution (IDR), run by Richard Schiffer, an American.

In two years, the whole position changed. In November 1990, the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR) was launched at the CBI headquarters. CEDR, a non-profit-making body established to promote ADR, now counts among its members many of the flagships of industry and commerce and the legal profession.

CEDR, IDR and the British Academy of Experts have been training mediators and setting standards. IDR has completed about 80 mediations. CEDR has already completed a dozen, with a value of more than £30 million, and has about 40 active at the moment. Other organisations are becoming involved. Solicitors and barristers, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and many others are offering mediation services.

In the light of such a rapid

boom in interest, Anthony Scrivener, QC, when he was chairman of the Bar, invited Sir Roy Beldam, the High Court judge, to chair a committee to consider the possibility of introducing ADR in the courts. The impetus for change in Britain had come from those with knowledge of the American experience but the committee found that the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) had the best part of 20 years' experience of mediation in Britain and was able to learn from that experience.

The Beldam report, published in November 1991, recommends a trial scheme by which county court litigants will be encouraged by the court to refer disputes to mediation. Mediators will be experienced lawyers with some training in mediation techniques.

There is widespread support for such a trial. Even the right-wing think tank, the Adam Smith Institute, recently called for government action to back ADR, observing that in the US disputes are being resolved much faster than has been possible in the courts. Some responses to the recent health department consultation paper, in which an arbitration scheme for medical negligence cases was proposed, have said ADR is a better solution than either arbitration or litigation.

The Acas experience shows an attraction of ADR for the government. The average cost to the administration for a case brought in the industrial tribunal is £1,200, whereas the average cost of a settlement mediated by Acas is £200. When potential savings in legal aid are also taken into account, there may be a real chance to improve the effective use of available funds.

The report is with the Lord Chancellor's department. If it is accepted, and the trial is successful, perhaps court-annexed mediation will become a permanent feature of English court procedure, avoiding much of its cost and delay.

● The author is a practising barrister and the director of CEDR

Joy riders need shock treatment

PROPOSALS to tackle joy riding will soon be debated in the committee stage in the Lords. What makes Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, think they will reduce this kind of crime? Experience cannot be the reason. In the late 1950s and early 1960s many judges thought an effective deterrent would be a long driving disqualification. The police favoured such orders because the sight of a disqualified driver in a vehicle justified immediate arrest and might stop commission of another crime.

However, probation officers' reports and offenders' antecedents when they were before the courts for another offence of the same kind showed that, for some, long periods of disqualification were no deterrent. Indeed, probation officers said they could be a temptation. A short period of disqualification could be borne; but if there was a long one, mounting frustration at not being allowed to drive and no immediate prospect of being able to do so led to more offences being committed.

In the mid-1960s the Court of Criminal Appeal therefore began to discourage orders for long periods of disqualification. Ever since and for good reason sentencing practice has been to order short periods even for persistent offenders.

When I dealt with these offenders' custodial sentences could be imposed. However, they were seldom for first offenders because judges and magistrates knew that about 80 per cent of them would never offend again. For them the shock of appearing in court and being sentenced, albeit leniently, had a chastening effect. The other 20 per cent would go on committing the offence until they grew out of their youthful obsession with driving cars.

Courts had to impose custodial sentences on these recidivists, but had to observe the sentencing policies set out in statutes and their own assessments of the value of such sentences.

Ever since the Prisons Act 1898 the rehabilitation of offenders has been the primary purpose of custodial sentences, particularly for youthful offenders. Those responsible for running penal establishments for the young have learnt from experience that custodial sentences have limited curative value. The history of Borstal institutions shows this.

Borstals were introduced in 1907, the theory then being that if delinquent youths were subjected to a regime like that in most public schools at the time, involving lots of physical exercise and the discipline of the house system, they would be likely to turn away from crime. Even in the days when first offenders were sent to Borstal the re-conviction rate after five years was never less

than about 50 per cent, and for some years before 1982, when Borstals were abolished, it was about 80 per cent.

Penal establishments for adolescents provide opportunities for further education in crime. Judges and magistrates know this. Yet with his Aggravated Vehicle-Taking Bill Mr Baker seems to be encouraging more and longer custodial sentences.

What is the justification? Increasing numbers of these offences? There are only a few historical examples of tougher penalties acting as an effective deterrent against an increase in a particular kind of crime. Garroting in Liverpool in the 19th century and assaults on Asians in Notting Hill, London, in the early 1960s are said to have decreased following the imposition of severe sentences. Joy riding is an offence committed mostly by youths between 16 and 18, who are usually obsessed with cars. Driving

them generates excitement which for some is increased if the police chase them. The offence is one of impulse. Few are likely to be deterred by the knowledge, if they have it, that they may lose their liberty.

Mr Baker may believe that the recent rise in these offences, particularly when they are associated with the ramming of shops followed by stealing and the killing of people through reckless driving, calls for some action showing that society will not tolerate such conduct. He is right to think the public expects action. For many people action in this context means more severe punishments, whether by longer custodial sentences, bigger fines or longer periods of disqualification. He seems to be reacting to public opinion.

When sentencing, judges and magistrates should be guided by principle. They should ask themselves before imposing a sentence what they hope to achieve by it. If they do and they find their object is solely retributive they should think again. There is a place in the criminal justice system for retribution in the sense that loss of liberty may be the only way in which society can show disapproval of some kinds of anti-social conduct such as causing death by reckless driving.

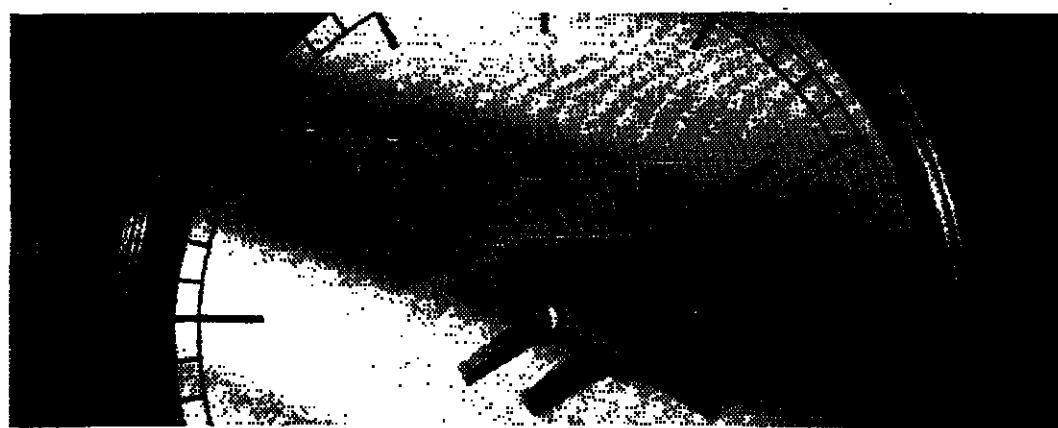
Mr Baker would have found it easier to satisfy a public expecting him to take some action against joy riders if his predecessors had not rejected the concept of a "short sharp shock" for youthful offenders. The Home Office should reconsider the concept. Penal experience has shown it is the beginning of a custodial sentence that hurts. In those few weeks there is little likelihood of corruption by other inmates. Why then have more than a beginning?

● The author is a former Lord Justice of Appeal



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Jewish option that cuts costs

WANT to leapfrog High Court and county court waiting lists and curb the cost of litigation? For forum shoppers with these aims in mind the Beth Din in Tavistock Square, London, could be the answer.

The Beth Din is a court that still relatively few people know, even lawyers, though that is changing. Every year the court handles a diverse array of cases ranging from contract, property and employment disputes through to personal injury and defamation claims.

The Beth Din — Hebrew for House of Judgment — is the Court of the Chief Rabbi and was set up in Britain by statute more than 100 years

ago. Today it handles a growing caseload that is far from confined to matters involving the Jewish faith or members of it.

Jeremy Phillips is the newly appointed registrar of the court, which is presided over by rabbis with no formal legal qualifications.

The speed and economy with which the court can conclude cases is now attracting increasing numbers of cases involving non-Jewish people.

The Tavistock Square Beth Din is not the only court of its kind in Britain, but it is the main one, dealing with several hundred cases annually.

As with any civil court,

some cases are settled before trial. Mr Phillips stresses that litigants are always encouraged to resolve their differences on a friendly basis instead of fighting the matter out.

In cases at the twice-weekly sittings the parties sign arbitration agreements beforehand committing them to treat decisions by the rabbis, who normally sit in panels of three and apply a mixture of Jewish and British law as binding.

Litigants in person are commonplace. However, parties can be represented if they wish and lawyers taking part are not required to be Jewish.

There appear to be two

reasons for the growing popularity of this legal forum. Mr Phillips says the speed with which a case can be resolved compared with the time taken by conventional court channels is an obvious attraction. The time from launching a case through to judgment can be as little as six weeks, though obviously more complex matters take longer.

Another attraction is cost. Charges are based on the work involved. As there are no formal pleadings and none of the costly pre-trial discovery of documents involved in other civil cases there are inevitable savings.

ROGER PEARSON

Name trouble

RECENT publicity about the Maxwell business empire has caused difficulties for the legal publishers Sweet & Maxwell. A curious advertisement appeared in *The Lawyer* magazine under the publishers' name, stating: "The company derives its name from those of the founders of the business in the 18th century. The company should not be confused by customers and suppliers with any other companies bearing similar names."

The problem arose when the publishers sent out their subscription renewal notices in October and reminders in December. Anthony Kinahan, the marketing manager, explains: "We received a couple of calls saying, 'Why

should we send a cheque to you? Isn't it akin to putting our funds in the hands of the receiver?' I am happy to say we are trading quite normally, and quite happily, as we have done for 200 years."

First in

SIMMONS & Simmons is the first UK firm to establish a presence in Portugal. The firm has created an economic interest grouping called Grupo Legal Portugues, bringing together the two-partner Portuguese firm F. Castelo Branco & Nobre Guedes, the Spanish firm J&A Garrigues and the Brazilian firm Pinheiro Neto. The three non-Portuguese members will second lawyers to the group. The firm hopes the move will help it in

tapping into the increasingly important Portuguese market.

Green legacy

FINDING a successor to Sir Allan Green, QC, who resigned as the Director of Public Prosecutions after being stopped for kerb-crawling, is not proving easy. After advertising the post, the Civil Service Commission appears to be wading through many applications from circuit judges. An appointment is "some way off", an official says.

The idle poor

THE story of Sir David Hopkins's magnanimity to the man brought before Bow Street magistrates for beg-

ging might have caused some people to marvel that begging is still a criminal offence. However, the 1824 Vagrancy Act ("an act for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons and rogues and vagabonds") criminalises begging by defining an idle and disorderly person as "every person placing himself or herself in any public place to beg or gather alms". The punishment is committal to a "house of correction" for a period of not more than a month, though if you are unfortunate enough to be found to be an "incorrigible rogue", the sentence increases to a year's jail with hard labour.

The barrister Alastair Hudson, who is the convener of a law and housing project, has argued strenuously that these ancient provisions have no place in Britain in the present decade.

SCRIVENER

Free counsel for students going to law

Learned friends and solicitors are offering advice to would-be lawyers. Anne-Marie Martin reports

The Law Fair was launched in the distant days of 1990 when solicitors were worried that not enough graduates were entering the law. The fair has held its position as the most comprehensive legal information and recruitment event in Britain despite the recession and the downturn in opportunities in the law.

In 1990, 5,252 visitors met representatives from about 70 organisations. This year, the organiser, the University of London Careers Advisory Service, expects similar attendances despite a reduction in the number of exhibitors to about 50. In the present climate, the drop was expected. Brian Steptoe, director of the service, says: "To have achieved 50 during this recession, which is the worst for graduate employment since 1982 — some would say 1932 — is remarkable. It is a testament to the quality of the event and to the high calibre of visitors that we manage to attract."

This year barristers are out in force. The General Council of the Bar, one of the sponsors, has taken a large stand area so all elements can be represented, from the employed Bar to the chancery Bar. Brick Court Chambers is attending independently, looking for pupil barristers for 1993/4 and 1994/5. Most law students are unaware of the 1,747 barristers in independent practices outside London and imagine that all barristers are based in the capital, so the organisers are delighted to welcome a consortium of three Southampton-based chambers.

To make the fair truly comprehensive, the Institute of Legal Executives has been added to the list of sponsors. Legal executives are qualified specialist lawyers. They play a different role from solicitors or barristers and offer an alternative, longer but arguably easier route into a legal



The 1992 Law Fair, sponsored by The Times, the Bar, the Law Society and the Institute of Legal Executives, runs on Thursday and Friday this week at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London

career. Fifteen per cent of new registrants on the legal executives course are graduates. By 1993, any non-graduate who wishes to qualify as a solicitor will be required to become a fellow of the institute first.

Nearly all institutions offering courses leading to the common professional examination (the conversion course for non-law graduates) and the Law Society finals examination are represented at the fair, as well as some institutions offering first degree law courses.

The fair is chiefly aimed at undergraduates and graduates interested in a law career. Although some exhibitors offer alternative careers, such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the Law Commission and the Government Legal Service, have vacancies for 1992/3, nearly all law firms are seeking trainee solicitors for the 1993/4 intake. The Law Society emphasises that such is the competition

for traineeships at present that students with poor academic track records will find it hard to be placed.

The European Commission attends the Law Fair every other year to coincide with its recruitment of administrators with a legal specialism. To be eligible, students must have graduated. They then sit an extensive range of qualifying tests. Gaining a job with the commission can take two years but prospects are excellent and movement between the different directorates-general is encouraged.

The fair is not just about meeting prospective employers or educational institutions. A number of advisers will also be on hand. The Legal Aid Practitioners' Group, the Society of Black Lawyers, the Anglo-Hellenic Law Association and the Magistrates' Courts' Service will all be happy to discuss their particular specialisms. Careers advisers from the University of London and other institutions will be offering counselling.

A range of publications about the law and general career matters will be on sale at the bookstand and Chambers and Partners, the publishing arm of the recruitment consultants, will be distributing their legal directory free of charge. There is also a programme of seminars by expert presenters.

The Times, which has supported the fair in each of its three years, will be offering information and advice from its stand and will host a seminar on "Journalism and the Law".

To get the best from the fair, it is worth buying the catalogue in advance (price £1.50), although copies will be on sale at the door. (Freephone 0800 252183 for further details)

The author is senior careers adviser, University of London



Holding court: Despite the recession this year's fair is expected to attract as many visitors as last year's

New tricks for young learners

In the past, law students have been force-fed information like geese destined to become pâté. There is now a move away from such methods. Professor Nigel Savage of the Nottingham Law School says: "What we are intending to do with the new system is to release the students so that they can become free-range chickens, more self-reliant and able to produce better quality legal work."

Legal education is entering on the edge of large-scale changes. Second-year undergraduates will be the first students to embark on the new legal practice course, which is replacing the law finals course.

Debate about the new course is intense. The "progressive" camp, represented by people like Professor Savage, believes that it will free trainee lawyers from the tedium of rote-learning and equip them instead with the skills really needed by employers. Critics, who are in the minority, fear that young lawyers will miss out on the basics. They point to the problems which may face non-law graduates as they struggle to gain a detailed knowledge of the law.

Frank Meisel, director of training and research at Eversheds, comments: "We recruit an increasing number of non-law students and we are concerned there may be deficiencies as a result."

A more serious concern, however, springs from the degree of latitude which the various educational institutions will be allowed. "The old system may have been boring but at least you knew there was a national standard."

Away with rote-learning, in with practical tips. Legal education is on the brink of big changes. Edward Fennell listens to the debate

one legal educator points out. Now colleges will be given more responsibility for setting standards, and although there will be national quality controls, even the keenest supporters of the system question whether the resources will be available to make those controls fully effective.

"It is likely the quality will vary, at least initially, from institution to institution," Mr Meisel says.

The probable result is that a pecking order will emerge, with colleges which have carefully nurtured their links with firms — whether these be City, regional commercial, or legal aid — coming top. Competition for entry to such courses will intensify and it is already clear that City firms will be making strong recommendations to their undergraduate applicants about their preferred courses.

At this point money will start to talk. Some firms have expressed a desire to buy up places on legal practice courses in order to guarantee their trainees a place. Quite how that arrangement will work out remains to be seen. The fact that the legal practice course will cost more than the traditional course is certainly strengthening the hand of the bigger



firms as they become, in effect, more selective purchasers of legal education. Despite the recession, the big law firms intend to maintain their levels of recruitment. The City firm of Norton Rose, for example, plans to take on 50 trainees this autumn, followed by 55 in 1993 and as many as 60 in 1994. Birmingham-based Wragge and Company is maintaining an intake of around 20 and the Manchester firm, Addleshaw Sons and Latham, expects to increase its figures over the next three years by 50 per cent.

In every case the competitive commercial firms tell the same story. The raw talent taken in at the graduate stage is the lifeblood of the firm. They cannot afford to cut recruitment or the education and training which is then invested in these young people.

What is noticeable is the increasing emphasis on preparing students to work in a European context. This covers everything from language training to intensive work on European Community law. Part of the growing trend towards recruiting non-lawyers is the popularity of

language graduates. A Law Society survey showed that just 4 per cent of solicitors regard themselves as fluent in German and 1 per cent in Spanish. This will clearly have to change as Germany becomes even more significant in the single market.

Many firms are offering language training and encouraging their lawyers to immerse themselves in the culture and business life of EC member countries. At Theodore Goddard, for example, there are a number of business language groups, run almost as clubs, to which guest speakers are invited and for which specialist training is laid on. Language classes, however, are at the intermediate stage and above — individuals are expected to develop a basic grasp of their chosen language for themselves.

The other tendency is to recruit growing numbers of foreign nationals. Despite a surge from Frankfurt, London remains Europe's leading international legal centre and young Europeans want to train with the big commercial firms.

Penningtons, for example, has taken on both young Italians and Spaniards to train as British lawyers and Theodore Goddard has recently recruited graduates from Poland and Czechoslovakia.

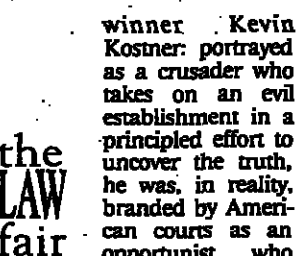
Although English lawyers may have a long way to go to catch up on language skills, there are no signs of complacency about the EC. As in many other aspects of business life, the top law firms have a lesson to teach the rest of British industry.

Young people who want to become lawyers should beware of using Oliver Stone's crusader as a role model

Flawed hero on trail of JFK's killer

Oliver Stone's hit film about the assassination of President Kennedy, *JFK*, has stirred passions in America.

While rekindling the controversy over who killed Kennedy, and whether there was a cover-up, the film glosses over the role of the legal hero played by Academy Award-



winner Kevin Costner, portrayed as a crusader on an evil establishment in a principled effort to uncover the truth. But Stone has performed a



Glossy version: Jim Garrison (left), played by Kevin Costner, with "X" (Donald Sutherland) in the film *JFK*

great public service. After all, it does seem improbable that the gospel according to the Warren Commission — that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot the president and Governor Connally in just five to six seconds with a mail-order Mannlicher-Carcano rifle — is correct.

An amateur movie of the assassination, shot by a bystander, Abraham Zapruder, strongly suggests a fatal bullet coming from the grassy knoll in front of the president, instead of from behind and above, where Oswald is said to have positioned himself in the sixth-floor window of the Dallas School Book Depository. The Zapruder film shows the president's head driven backward by the force of the fatal bullet. A bullet from Oswald would probably have driven him forward.

Most government files on the assassination are under seal and will not be released until 2029 for "national security" reasons. And Stone's film, however factually flawed, may have accelerated public disclosure of the sealed record.

Disclosure is essential to complete the historical picture. If there was a conspiracy, who were its members? Mafia? Castro? KGB? Or others? And it may provide the answer to the key question in the conspiracy whodunit: was the president's body interfered with over the weekend prior to the naval autopsy, as is claimed by some scholars? If so, only the government had custody of the body. Then we would

have to conclude that the government (or some of its most senior officials) were implicated in a conspiracy to murder Kennedy and conceal the truth. A sobering theory, but do the facts support it?

The physical evidence compels the conclusion that there were at least two gunmen. But Stone goes beyond this. He asks the question dominating the entire conspiracy inquiry: why?

Here, Stone spins out a 70mm fantasy. His premise is that the assassination involved a coup d'état with the suspects being: the CIA, the military-industrial complex, the FBI, Lyndon Johnson and the press. The purpose of the assassination, according to Stone, was to prevent Kennedy from pulling out of Vietnam and making peace.

Stone claims Kennedy had a secret plan to withdraw from Vietnam while he talked escalation, just as Johnson had a secret plan to escalate the war while he talked withdrawal. Stone concedes that this is pure speculation.

JFK is based on a book, *On the Trail of the Assassins*, by the former New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison, portrayed in the film by Costner. Garrison's involvement stemmed from Oswald's presence in New

Orleans the summer before the assassination. Several years later, in November 1966, Garrison embarked on an investigation designed to prove that Oswald was a "fall guy"; that there was a New Orleans-based conspiracy to assassinate the president; and that Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman who at one time worked for the CIA, was implicated.

While Garrison was one of the first to question the findings of the Warren Commission, the blue-ribbon panel appointed in 1963 by President Johnson to investigate the assassination, his real importance has been overstated. When the Warren Commission issued its report, a spate of books and articles challenged the findings and, based on the physical evidence, alleged a conspiracy involving a second assassin or a team of assassins. Garrison was hardly the sole voice crying in the wilderness. And he was not the most reasoned.

Garrison's investigation of Shaw proved to be not only fruitless, but also contrary to basic principles of prosecutorial fairness. When the prosecution of Shaw for complicity in the assassination resulted in a jury acquittal after only 55 minutes of deliberation, Garrison took the unusual step of indicting



Oliver Stone: his facts may be flawed, but he has performed a great service to the public

Shaw for perjury based on Shaw's testimony in his own defence. But in 1971 a distinguished federal judge found that Garrison had prosecuted Shaw in "bad faith". Shaw had denied under oath in the conspiracy trial that he had known either Oswald or David Ferrie, with whom Garrison claimed he had conspired to assassinate the president. Garrison, based on testimony procured by administering Sodium Pentothal and hypnosis to a key witness, charged that Shaw's testimony was false and indicted him.

The court concluded that Garrison's investigation of Shaw was "baseless" and alluded to his "extraordinary tactics" as well as his "ulterior motives" to profit from the sale of his book. The judge's findings were unanimously affirmed on appeal.

The Federal Court held Garrison's tactics to be "outrageous and inexcusable" and said he had acted in "total disregard of Shaw's rights". It enjoined Garrison's prosecution of Shaw even though the Supreme Court said it should exercise such power only in "exceptional circumstances".

Garrison plays a small role in the film, and his book has soared to number one on the *New York Times* paperback best-seller list. But he is a questionable rock on which to build a cinematic *JFK*.

JAMES ZIRIN

Executive door for new boys

The law is still open to non-graduates, says Frances Gibb

I used to be said that the law like the Ritz Hotel, was open to all. But although private means and the right connections are no longer the required passport into the profession, there are other hurdles in the shape of academic qualifications.

The legal profession is about to become all graduate entry only. From next year, the only way to become a solicitor for non-graduates will be to qualify first as a legal executive.

The move will place the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) in the key role of holding open the door for people who did not have the opportunity, the finances or the inclination to pursue a degree.

Being a legal executive is of course a legal career in its own right. But the presence of the institute as a sponsor of this week's Law Fair is a sign of its growing attraction as a stepping stone towards becoming a solicitor.

Graduates who cannot find or afford a place on the Law Society finals course, for example, or who prefer the prospect of working while they train rather than another year's study are more and more looking towards starting off as a legal executive.

They are exempt from the academic part of the legal executive qualification and would study part-time to take examinations in legal practice.

The examinations can be completed in just over one year, although to qualify as a legal executive requires five years' experience. The option is also attractive, the institute says, for those who are not sure how they will feel about practising as a lawyer, and who prefer to find out before opting for further full-time study.

The legal executive option

means it takes five to six years to qualify as a solicitor from starting work in an office, compared with three years (four for non-law graduates) going down the normal route to a solicitor.

Charles Allen, who works for Clifford Chance's shipping department handling salvage and cargo claims, qualified as a solicitor last year. He had been a fellow of the ILEX since 1987. "My formal education was not a huge success," he says. After a series of jobs on leaving school (warehouseman, delivery driver) he decided to find work in the City and was offered the job of litigation department outdoor clerk at Clifford Chance (then Coward Chance).

He spent two years issuing writs and delivering briefs to counsel with one day a week off to study for the legal executive examinations, and then moved to inside work handling debt collection, insolvency, landlord and tenant and general commercial litigation.

In an unusual twist Charles then decided he wished after all to do a law degree and the firm let him take four years off for that and the Law Society finals. He came back to work in the vacations. "This was not the most straightforward way of graduating from legal executive to solicitor. But it is undoubtedly the case that I would not have been able to get the law degree place without having first studied with ILEX," he says.

About 15 per cent of legal executives are graduates but with the increasing pressure for places on finals courses that proportion is likely to rise. As for those who stay as legal executives, enjoying the career in its own right, the status of their work can only grow.

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THE CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

EUROPE: Firms hoping to expand internationally are being hindered by a French ban on foreign newcomers and a growing hostility from the east

French set up barriers as English open doors

On the same day that England entered the European legal market by opening her doors to foreign lawyers, the French slammed their door shut.

From January 1 this year, a foreign lawyer has been allowed to enter a multi-national partnership (MNP) in England with an English lawyer. In France, a law that became effective on the same date banned foreign law firms from opening an office, and foreign lawyers practising in France unless they have qualified as an *avocat*.

The English move to open up the legal market is in response to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. The first MNP, Abbott King & Troen, is up and running, including five partners who left Rosling King last year and a Danish lawyer, Per Troen. Michael Tackley, the senior partner, says: "It is a way of giving smaller firms a profile abroad." He hopes that Danish clients, who are used to using smaller firms, will find AK&T friendlier than the larger City firms.

Although broadly welcomed, the Law Society's new rules do not escape criticism: not least for the cost, which some American lawyers see as a tax on foreign firms. Every one who wants to become a Registered Foreign Lawyer (RFL), a prerequisite to entering an MNP, has to pay a fee as well as contribute to the Solicitor's Indemnity Fund. Opinions differ on whether the charges are prohibitive. The largest single application received to date has come from Wilmer Cutler & Pickering, a 74-partner Washington-based firm with offices in London and Brussels. The firm has applied for 23 of its American partners to enter the register.

"We decided that the advantage of having them all registered outweighs the cost," Gary Born, a London partner, says.

Josephine Carr discovers that ambitious lawyers are being frustrated by uneven progress towards a single legal market

Another American firm, Coudert Brothers, however, has adopted a more cautious approach. It has limited its RFL applications to six. The need to send in numerous bits of paper as part of the application process, including approval from the foreign lawyer's bar and a certificate of good standing, is a source of complaint from foreign and English firms. "For an American lawyer it may mean getting 50 letters and certificates if they are members of every state bar," Mr Born says.

Worse, some American states, particularly California and Florida, are thought to be unhappy about allowing their lawyers to enter MNPs.

Of the UK firms anxious to set up MNPs, Clifford Chance, with its aggressive European policy, was expected to be first off the mark. It was the first firm to call the Law Society for the forms, and one partner, Garth Pollard, had hoped that the firm would be able to bring all its

Dutch partners on board on January 1. But it was beaten by the bureaucracy. "Getting the forms filled and returned took longer than expected," Mr Pollard says.

As one door opens, another closes. The new French law fuses France's split profession into one. The 6,000 *conseils juridiques* have been absorbed into the ranks of the 16,000 *avocats*. The same law prevents any more foreign firms opening offices in Paris. Firms there before 1971, including Clifford Chance and the American firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, automatically became *avocats* on January 1. Firms which came after 1971 and before 1992 have to apply.

Lawyers who have been practising in France for 18 months can also apply. But, says Howard Norman, an English lawyer in Paris, "I do not yet know how to apply." He cannot take up his position as name partner in a firm of *avocats*, Lassus Hoebarx, Courbevoie, Normandy, until he is registered.

But he is in a better position than any lawyer getting off the plane at Charles de Gaulle. From January 1, they have had to sit an exam and qualify as an *avocat*, whether they want to practise French or Mongolian law.

As a result, EC firms will find it difficult to rotate staff into their Paris offices.

The French move is indefensible. French lawyers attempt to argue that they need a monopoly to make their legal profession strong again. They point to a market dominated by the accounting firms and foreign lawyers. Of the ten largest firms in Paris, six

are accountants and one is Clifford Chance.

The difficulties the French now encounter find their roots in firms' failure to learn new ways during the Sixties. *Avocats'* refusal to even leave their offices to visit clients opened the market to a new breed of lawyer, the *conseil juridique*, who was prepared to adopt the approach of English commercial solicitors. They serviced their clients and prospered.

The accountants and foreign law firms are now being penalised for their success. And the European Commission seems unwilling to act. English firms may decide to finance a test case based on a failed attempt to bring a lawyer in from London.

There is also a potential conflict between the French and English over MNPs. The new French law, on the one hand, makes it easier for a French partner in Clifford Chance to become an RFL. He is now an *avocat*. And *avocats* are a recognised legal profession, where *conseils* were not.

On the other hand, the new rules which will govern the *avocats*, if the French are true to form, may prevent *avocats* sharing fees with foreign lawyers.

The recession has cast a deep shadow over the European hopes and ambitions of many firms. The anticipated flood of applications from United States firms to set up MNPs has not happened.

Bill Lee, partner with the American firm Shearman & Sterling in Paris, says: "Everyone is waiting to see how the US firms that have expanded rapidly in Europe are doing before they jump into any new ventures."

But the single European market arrives in less than a year. Despite the French attempt to turn back the clock, the pressure from clients for pan-European and international legal advice will continue.



Knocking down the walls: like Berliners, British lawyers are having to chip their way into Eastern Europe

Breach of eastern promise

GIVEN the mounting economic uncertainties and hostility to their presence, many firms which have established offices in East Europe are wondering if the investment is worth it.

Since Baker & McKenzie set up in Budapest in 1987, about 15 firms have followed suit. Prague, Moscow and Warsaw were invaded by the western legal contingent, each city now boasting more than a dozen foreign firms.

British lawyers were slow at the start. But last year more than ten firms established offices in the region. Firms were lured by privatization programmes in which western banks and investors were intimately involved.

Moreover, British firms had the advantage. Legal fees for lucrative government contracts are typically paid out of western aid which American firms, the biggest competitors, were less able to tap.

However, a European office does not come cheaply. One American lawyer estimated that the annual cost of operating an East European office staffed by an expatri-

ate assistant lawyer, a newly-qualified local lawyer and a secretary could be up to \$400,000 (about £230,000).

All this assumes that adequate office accommodation can be found. Space is scarce and expensive. Some firms operate out of hotel rooms. At its Budapest office, the New York firm Debevoise & Plimpton has transformed a bathroom into its fax room.

But now the market is flooded, does an office make any real sense? In Czechoslovakia, the authorities keep a list of accredited foreign consultants, including law firms. But to get on the list, a firm must demonstrate a commitment to the country. The simplest first step is to open an office.

Government bodies, such as the Hungarian State Property Agency, prefer firms with a presence. Richards Butler and Linklaters & Paines were disqualified from the race to become legal adviser to the Polish mass privatization programme.

partly because they did not have Warsaw offices.

Recently, the debate has turned to regional strategy. Some firms do not believe more than one office in the region is necessary, but Stephen Harder, the resident lawyer at the Warsaw office of New York firm White & Case, argues that the work is country-specific and clients know it. His firm now has offices in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest and Moscow, the most of any foreign firm. Increasing numbers of firms are taking their cue.

Yet all this goes on against a backdrop of mounting hostility. Local lawyers are calling for restrictions. The Czech Bar has just issued rules prohibiting direct operations of foreign law firms, which must now act in association with a Czech lawyer. The latest British arrival in Prague, Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens, fronts as the Law Offices of Dr Pavla Hemlova.

In Poland, a midnight amendment to last June's Foreign Investment Act places legal services alongside shipbuilding and the arms industry as "sensitive" areas where foreigners need specific government approval to operate.

Little wonder that some firms have decided to be careful. Linklaters & Paines, a firm active in privatizations, will run its East European practice from London and its Frankfurt office, which opens in April.

Richards Butler, another key player, will not set up. Kate Baragone, an American lawyer in the firm's central European group, says: "We are waiting to see how the economies develop." And what of the firms that have leap-frogged into the region? Mr Harder believes the firms that succeed will be the ones "with an entrepreneurial culture and have a sense of how to start up. I happen to think that certain firms breed that culture — and others do not."

The struggling East European economies will test the hardest entrepreneur.

PATRICK STEWART

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 4 1992

Chancery Division

No remedy for lead victim

Hewett v Alf Brown's Transport Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Scott
[Judgment January 29]

A woman suffering personal injury from lead poisoning as a result of exposure to dust while cleaning her husband's overalls could not recover damages against her husband's employers.

Although an employer owed a duty of care to members of an employee's family in respect of foreseeable risk, the husband's exposure to lead dust was not significant so that his wife could not establish negligence or breach of statutory duty against the employers.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Stella Hewett, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Otton ([1991] 1 CR 471) of her claim for damages for negligence and/or breach of statutory duty against the defendants, her husband's

former employers, Alf Brown's Transport Ltd.

Mr Gregory Trevorton-Jones for the plaintiff, Mr Richard Maxwell, QC and Mr Robert F. Owen for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the plaintiff's husband was a lorry driver employed at the time by the defendants. He had been driving waste that included lead oxide from Bromley-by-Bow gasworks that were being dismantled.

He had to climb on top of the lorry to sheet the load: dusty and dirty work. He did about three loads a day. He wore his own overalls, boots and mask. The plaintiff daily banged the dust from the overalls before hand washing them.

She became ill in 1982 and the judge found that her illness, caused by lead poisoning, was directly attributable to exposure to her husband's contaminated clothes.

The risk from lead poisoning had long been recognised. Moreover, the possibility of contamination by spread from the work place to those in the neighbourhood or by carriage home on work clothes, thus affecting workers' families, was also known.

The Control of Lead at Work Regulations (SI 1980 No 1248), accompanied by an approved code of practice, together encapsulated the common law duty of care owed by employers to their employees.

By regulation 8 an employer was to provide an employee with protective clothing unless the exposure to lead was not significant. Paragraph 10 of the code of practice laid down what could amount to significant exposure.

The judge concluded that Mr Hewett's exposure to lead was at most an hour a day and below the lowest end of any scale of exposure envisaged by the code of practice. It followed, he said, that no duty of care to Mr Hewett arose. For the plaintiff, it was con-

ceded that she could not quarrel with the judge's approach that if there was no duty on the defendant by spread from the work place of her husband because his exposure to lead was insignificant, there could be no duty owed to her.

However, the judge's finding that her husband's exposure was insignificant was attacked by the judge, it was said, attached too much importance to the period of Mr Hewett's exposure rather than to its intensity.

That criticism was not well founded. The judge had in mind the nature of the work. He recognised that the husband was selected to remove lead waste because he had his own overalls. He was entitled to have in mind the absence of any recommendations by the various monitors as to any precautions to be taken on removing the waste.

There were no grounds on which the judge's finding that Mr Hewett's exposure to lead was insignificant could be interfered with.

Almond v Miles

Before Mr Justice Vinelott

[Judgment December 20]

The interaction of sections 16(6), 17(1), 17(3) and 18 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 was capable of producing a manifestly unjust result.

Mr Justice Vinelott so ruled in the Chancery Division when ordering Ms Stacey Elaine Almond, the legally aided unsuccessful plaintiff in an action which lasted five days before Mr Justice Morritt, to pay to the legally aided defendant, Ms Gaynor Eileen Miles, £100 a month up to the end of February and thereafter £125 a month, until the costs of that action, of a hearing before Master Gower as to the parties' means, and of the hearing before his Lordship, totalling £18,000 subject to taxation, had been fully discharged.

Section 16 of the 1988 Act provides: "(6) ... (b) a sum equal to any deficiency by reason of his total contribution being less than the net liability of the board on his account, shall be a first charge for the benefit of the board on any property which is recovered or preserved for him in the proceedings".

Section 17 provides: "(1) The liability of a legally assisted party ... for costs ... shall not exceed the amount ... which is a reasonable one for him to pay having regard to all the circumstances, including the financial resources of all the parties and their conduct in connection with the dispute."

"(3) None of the following, namely, a legally assisted person's (dwelling house ... shall ... be subject to execution ... to enforce the order ... Under section 18 the court had a discretion in certain circumstances to order that the costs awarded against a legally aided person should be paid by the board but that section only applied when the award was in favour of an unassisted person.

Mr Paschal Welsh for the

plaintiff, Mr Peter Cowell for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the plaintiff and defendant had shared the latter's flat, and after they had parted the plaintiff brought an action claiming a share in the defendant's equity in that flat, initially alleging that she had paid £250 as a contribution to its purchase price.

Mr Justice Morritt, dismissing the action, held that that sum had

been paid as a deposit to cover rent and the like.

Since then the plaintiff had bought her own two-bedroom flat for £68,000. The defendant still lived in the disputed flat. Each party had a flat of roughly equal value and each had substantial mortgage commitments.

But the result of the legislation was that while the plaintiff's property was sacrosanct, the defendant, who seemed to have behaved responsibly throughout

in successfully defending what transpired to be a spurious claim, might lose hers. That could not be right.

His Lordship therefore made the order, while expressing the hope that the Legal Aid Board would refrain from enforcing its charge over the defendant's flat and that there should be urgent reconsideration of the legislation.

Solicitors: J. D. Spicer & Co. Kilburn; Robin Thompson & Partners.

Defendant's costs order wrongly refused

Regina v Birmingham Juvenile Court, Ex parte H

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Hutton
[Judgment January 28]

On an application for a defendant's costs order following the dismissal of an information, the fact that the defendant's solicitor did not consider the prosecution to have been malicious was not a

reason for the justices to refuse to make the order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, quashing the Birmingham Juvenile Court's decision and ordering them to make a defendant's costs order in favour of the applicant. The justices had dismissed two informations alleging offences under section 40 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and section 3 of

the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

Mr John Saunders, QC, for the applicant, the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that following the dismissal of the informations the defendant's solicitor applied for a defendant's costs order. The justices asked the solicitor whether he considered that the prosecution had been malicious.

The solicitor replied that the

prosecution clearly was not malicious but that that was not a matter for their consideration and that normally a defendant's costs order would be made in such circumstances and the defendant had done nothing to prejudice such a claim.

The justices refused to make an order but gave no reason for the refusal. This was an alibi case in which the justices were not satisfied that the case had been proved. In the court's view there were no grounds whatever, in the circumstances, for the justices' refusal to order a defendant's costs order. It was a clear case where a defendant's costs order should have been made.

Solicitors: Wilding & Neale, Birmingham.

Reason inadequate

Regina v Norwich Crown Court, Ex parte Stiller

R v Same. Ex parte Buffry
R v Same. Ex parte Smith

The lack of a court room and judge to hear a criminal trial did not amount to good and sufficient reason for extending the custody time limits in circumstances where there was no indication when such facilities would be available.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rose) so held in a reserved judgment on January 29 granting applications by Norbert Gerhard Stiller, Alan Buffry and Alan Herbert Smith for judicial review of a decision by Judge Woodford at Norwich Crown Court under regulation 5(3) of the Prosecution of Offences (Custody

Time Limits) Regulations (SI 1987 No 299) to extend the custody time limit by 56 days.

MR JUSTICE ROSE said that it might be, but the court expressed no final view, that the lack of immediate facilities for trial was capable of amounting to a good and sufficient reason for an extension when a trial date in the near future could be specified.

But that was not the instant case. There had been no clear indication as to when, if ever, there would be a court and judge available for trial. To hold that, in such circumstances, there was a good and sufficient reason for an extension was totally to negate the protection against long periods of pre-trial incarceration which the custody time limits were intended to afford.

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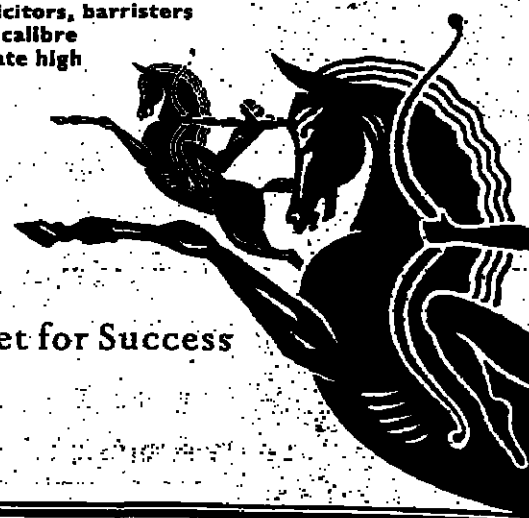
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The Times Law Awards sought essays on the best way to protect the environment. Below: the winning entry

The way to safeguard the environment without disrupting Western civilisation lies in achieving a pragmatic balance between legislation and self-regulation. That, at least, was the consensus among the six finalists in the essay competition for The Times Law Awards for students. Entrants were asked to write on "The future of the environment: will legislation or self-regulation protect it best?"

Presenting the awards at a dinner in Fleet Street, hosted by Freshfields, the year's sponsor of the awards, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said that the large number of entrants to this year's com-

petition showed how high the environment now was on the public agenda.

As the chairman of the judging panel — where he was joined by John Grieve, the senior partner of Freshfields, Jonathan Porritt, the environmentalist, and Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times* — the Lord Chancellor had found very refreshing the practical approach shown by the entrants to problems of environmental protection.

At a time when 40 per cent of the public are seeking "green" products and services, it is clear, he said, that there is a deep public concern about the environment. The question is how to harness British industry to the pursuit of greener policies.

In the view of Nicholas Shea, from the City University, who won the first prize of £3,000, Parliament has a crucial role to play in changing the climate in which decisions are made by introducing changes to the economy that favour environmental protection.

"Parliament is not finished with the environment," thundered Mr Shea, whose essay is printed in an abridged form below. For Craig McGuire, who won second prize of £2,000, it was important to see the issues in their historical context. "Britain," he said, "has an enviable record of environmental legal development. After all, had not Shakespeare's father been prosecuted for contravening the environmental by-laws of Stratford-upon-Avon?"



Simon Jenkins with Colin Corbally (right) and Nicholas Shea

Britain will have to maintain a flexible and evolutionary approach to environmental problems. The impact of the individual consumer must never be forgotten. The populace,

through its social attitudes and activities, has an enormous impact on the environment... The "green consumer" has led to the success of such enterprises as the Body Shop.

Colin Corbally, who won third prize of £1,000, said: "There are a host of Gaia-style theories about how nature literally regulates itself but we can't rely on these if we wish to fulfil our obligation to preserve a hospitable environment for future generations."

"The introduction of market forces is a form of self-regulation, which can enhance the efficiency of the regulatory system."

Indeed, the launch of subsidised unleaded petrol has demonstrated the effective-

ness of economic incentive approaches."

Sarah Wheeler, a runner-up, was sceptical of how much market forces can do. "It is unrealistic to expect the free market to protect an essentially non-monetary concept — the environment," she wrote. "The most dedicated 'green' shopper cannot register disapproval of an oil spillage if he or she does not know whose products to boycott."

Recognition of the complexity of the issues ran throughout the finalists' entries. The international dimension, the difficulty of pinning down responsibility for pollution, the danger of driving out responsible manufacturers and leaving the market to "buccaneers" were all issues that

weighed on entrants' minds. Henry John Bewley, a runner-up, favoured extensive use of the tax system to make polluters pay. If the threat from a particular form of pollution became serious, the government should effectively tax it out of existence, he argued.

Whether this is a blow to the liberty and freedom of the citizen is a moot point; the characteristic British suspicion of state interference made the essayists wary of infringements of liberty by the imposition of judicial legislation. There is no shortage of ideas. The question remains, however, which ones will give the Earth a clean future?

EDWARD FENNEL

Fresh laws to make the world greener

I got a parking ticket last summer. My reaction was not one of admiration for the efficiency of traffic wardens. I did reflect that it takes more than motorists' self-regulation to control the flow of traffic.

As our impact on the natural world becomes increasingly apparent, it affects the decisions of more individuals and companies. Without legislation, many other people would have no incentive to change their behaviour, and some companies would exploit a competitive advantage over their more responsible rivals.

Manufacturers of consumer products are tempted to make cosmetic changes. Businesses further removed from the public, such as waste-disposal companies, have even less incentive to consider the environment. In the UK regulations, specifying civil and criminal sanctions, have evolved to protect the environment.

Last year's Environmental Protection Act sought to integrate pollution control under Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, and to establish the principle that the generator of pollution pays for its emission.

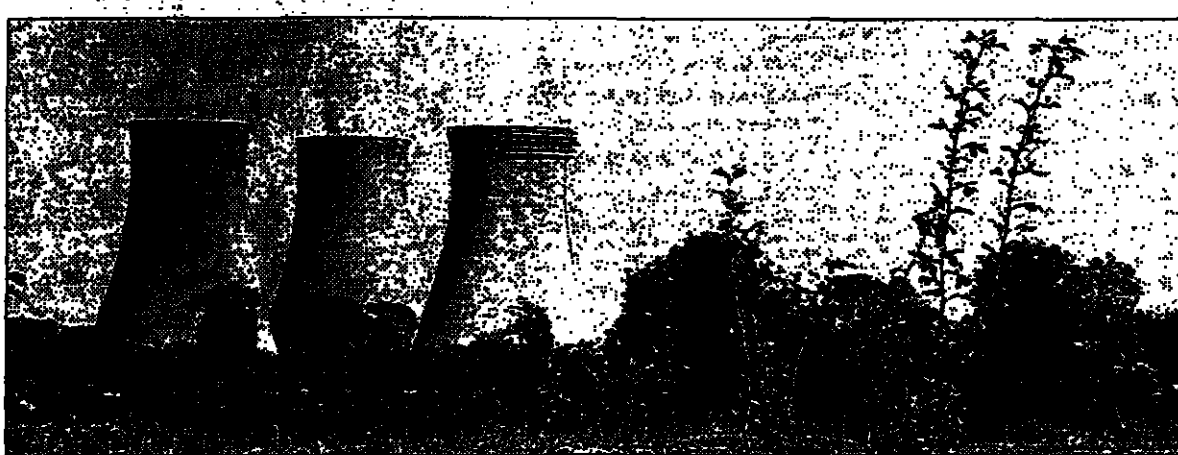
Britain and its partners exert international pressure for improvements. Fortunately, many environmental controls are imposed by European Commission directives or otherwise adopted by our trading partners. Only by so setting a responsible example can the richer

countries persuade developing nations to help to protect the world. Legislation need not stifle industry. Employment laws are now part of the rules of business — many employers exceed statutory standards to encourage good relations. Likewise, environmental law can be added to the rules within which people live and industry flourishes. Californian law, for example, will force large manufacturers to ensure that electric non-emission cars form 2 per cent of their sales by 1998.

Legislation has traditionally been concerned with apportioning liability for past and potential damage, a policy of: "It matters not who won and lost, but how you place the blame."

In business, winning and losing are important, so Parliament must produce a framework that encourages competition but reduces environmental damage.

Otherwise, widespread non-adherence can cause a collapse or "slippage" in the regulations, as happened with the national ambient air quality standards



Didcot power station, in Oxfordshire. Legislators should find ways to make safeguards profitable

in the United States. The main task of legislation in future is to change individual and corporate culture to make environmental factors an automatic concern.

I think such change is possible. People in business eschew the image of the soulless industrialist. Many companies "eco-label" their products and undertake environmental audits. Today, taxation does little to reduce environmental damage. Remaining tax relief on company cars and tax-free office parking encourage commuting by car. The fixed costs of running a car are high. By contrast, public transport costs depend on how far you travel.

By increasing petrol prices to include road tax and some insurance costs, heavy users, who are heavy polluters, would pay more. Similar product charges have been successfully levied on some food packaging in Norway and drinks containers in Finland, which waste natural resources and are difficult to dispose.

Major developments have traditionally been assessed by comparing economic costs and benefits. Environmental impacts being considered separately.

To weigh a monetary benefit against an unpriced environmental impact is difficult, so the practice of putting a

price on environmental detriment has recently developed. Being in the monetary equation, environmental values cease to be an external concern, but become intrinsic to a developer's thinking.

The values assigned to various natural resources will change as priorities alter and assessment techniques are refined. One such technique is to compare the market price of similar houses in similar areas that suffer from road or aircraft noise, with those in locations that do not.

A recent British study suggested that environmental factors accounted for 7 per cent of house prices. Another technique called contingent valuation can price a natural asset.

Detailed questionnaires are used to assess what people would be willing to pay to preserve an environmental resource. A total value for all those affected is then calculated. The method can value those natural assets that people actually use, and also remote wildlife habitats that people do not visit but nevertheless value.

Contingent valuations will be considered by American courts when assessing the civil damages payable by Exxon for oil spill from the Valdez. Economic instruments face political resistance from those who argue that natural habitats are invaluable. I see them as a practical step towards the ideal of complete environmental protection.

Failing worldwide ideological change, concern for the environment must evolve within free-market economies.

Much regulatory legislation is in place. Parliament must continue to implement European Commission directives and tighten up the rules. It must give the public enough information to scrutinise the environmental impact of industry and development. However, Parliament's role extends crucially to changing the climate in which decisions are made, by introducing innovative changes to the economy that favour environmental protection.

To argue that this is self-regulation, albeit within an evolving set of rules and incentives, may make semantic sense, but does not emphasise the importance of legislation.

To the question, "In the light of the problems facing Parliament, what can it do most effectively?" the cynic's answer is: "Dissolve." I disagree. Parliament is not finished with the environment.

NICHOLAS SHEA

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Sky is no limit as women take wing

The travelling public is not wholly accustomed to being flown by a woman.

"Passengers sometimes do a double take when they see me," says Karen Jones, a British Airways first officer, or co-pilot. This is changing, she says, as more women become pilots, and, in fairness, Miss Jones thinks some of the surprise is because of her age. She is 23. There are more women commercial pilots than a decade ago: 95 of the 5,880 British Airways Pilots' Association members are female, but that is still a small minority.

Captain Yvonne Sintes, Britain's first female commercial pilot, flew on the De Havilland Comet, the BAC 1-11 and the HS 748 for Dan-Air from 1969 until she retired in 1980. Dan-Air now employs seven more women pilots, including one captain of a Boeing 727, who has been flying for 20 years. The others are first officers based at Manchester, Aberdeen and Gatwick flying Boeing 727, 737s, BAC-111 and HS748 aircraft.

Monarch has three, Air UK 14, two of whom are captains, while British Midland has one, who qualified last March. British Airways has

Female pilots are a minority, but a growing one, Beryl Dixon discovers

30, none yet at captain level, but that, says the airline, is only a matter of time.

There is no prejudice, the airlines hasten to stress. Women simply do not apply in the same numbers as men. There are, however, two hurdles for anybody who hopes to become a pilot. The first is the competition for sponsored training places. Airlines willing to pay all, or even part, of the cost of a pilot's training can take their pick from 10,000 applicants whenever they advertise. Of those, 100 might make it to an air training college.

The second is the cost of training. In order to fly a British-registered aircraft for hire and reward, it is essential to hold a commercial pilot's licence (CPL), awarded by the Civil Aviation Authority. Some achieve this by first gaining a private pilot's licence. This is not cheap, since it requires 35 hours' tuition. Then there is the further expense of logging the 700 hours of flying experience required before sitting practical and written tests for the commercial licence.

The alternative is to take a course at a flying school. Several exist though not all take students up to full CPL standard. A student hoping to enter either the Oxford or Prestwick schools, the two which offer the full training, will need to find more than £60,000. In general, women are less willing than men to take out such large bank loans. However, this did not deter Sally Griffiths, another British Airways pilot and former stewardess, who made the headlines two years ago by giving up her job and selling her house to finance her training.

Whether paying their own fees or not, candidates for CPL courses must satisfy strict medical requirements - pilots must pass an annual medical to retain their licences - certain height requirements and have five GCSE passes, including English, maths and a science with a substantial physics content.

Those sponsored by an airline generally need A-levels

and must pass a tough selection test. However, British Airways, which tests for aptitude rather than experience, says: "We have devised a selection process which does not discriminate against people who have not logged previous flying hours. We do not want to be restricted only to entrants able to afford private flying lessons." Provided they have the grounding in maths and physics, women find no additional difficulties with the technical content of the course. However, some could then be excluded for physical reasons.

British Airways, the biggest sponsoring airline, insists that candidates are between 5ft 4in and 6ft 4in. This automatically excludes 25 per cent of the female population, but the airline says: "You need to be within that range to reach the controls of a jumbo." Men of 6ft 6in are, of course, also unacceptable.

Because of the high cost of training - some sponsors pay the full tuition fees plus salaries to their cadets - graduating pilots are naturally expected to make a commitment to their sponsors.

Airlines normally advertise sponsorships in the national press and in the special interest magazine, Flight International



In full flight: Karen Jones is used to passengers' surprise at her sex

PROFILE

THERE were no sponsored training courses in the year Karen Jones was 18, so she went to Southampton University to read oceanography with marine biology. While there, she joined the university air squadron and logged more than 100 flying hours. In her final year, British Airways advertised for trainees. She applied and was selected as a cadet.

She remembers finding the selection process demanding but enjoyable. "We did a mixture of pencil and paper tests, group discussions, exercises where each one in turn had to act as leader in simulated situation, and had personal interviews."

Training was equally demanding. "It is a very intensive course covering classroom work, simulator training and solo flying," she says. "We took the Civil Aviation Authority written exams two thirds of the way through - 18 papers in three days, with a pass mark of 70 per cent and no retakes allowed. The cadets only had three weeks off during the 16-month course."

On graduating from training school, British Airways cadets spend several months on more training at Heathrow before taking up posts as first officers. Miss Jones works out of Glasgow.

"The captain has overall responsibility for the flight, but we normally fly one way each," she says.

"It is a wonderful life, but you have to accept unsocial hours. I particularly like starting at 5am and being free for the afternoon."

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Today's problem is from the game Hodgson - Chandler, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1981. White has just tried to gain time by attacking the black queen, but this aggressive continuation

turned out to be a horrible mistake. How did Black counter?

Solution below.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

ENATATION

(a) A swimming out, an escape by swimming, from the Latin *e-* out + *natura* to swim: "In such watery calamities a man must choose between the Devil and enatation."

MOBBY

(c) An alcoholic drink made from sweet potatoes, or any fruit juice for distilling brandy, or the brandy itself. Southern American slang from *Mrs Byrne's Dictionary*.

CHIROPSPASM
(c) Writer's cramp, from the Greek *cheir* a hand + *spasm* a pulling or drawing: "I should have sent you the article at the week-end, but I was incapacitated by a sudden, violent, and inextinguishable fit of chiropspasm."

RECLIVATE
(a) Forming a double or sigmoid curve, from the late Latin *reclivus* bending backwards: "Snort on

the vertex, and reclinata line on the hemelytra."

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2705

1		2		3		4	5	6	7
					8				
9						10			

A 10x10 crossword puzzle grid. Black squares are located at (1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (1,9), (1,10), (2,1), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8), (2,9), (2,10), (3,1), (3,2), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (3,9), (3,10), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3), (4,4), (4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (4,8), (4,9), (4,10), (5,1), (5,2), (5,3), (5,4), (5,5), (5,6), (5,7), (5,8), (5,9), (5,10), (6,1), (6,2), (6,3), (6,4), (6,5), (6,6), (6,7), (6,8), (6,9), (6,10), (7,1), (7,2), (7,3), (7,4), (7,5), (7,6), (7,7), (7,8), (7,9), (7,10), (8,1), (8,2), (8,3), (8,4), (8,5), (8,6), (8,7), (8,8), (8,9), (8,10), (9,1), (9,2), (9,3), (9,4), (9,5), (9,6), (9,7), (9,8), (9,9), (9,10), (10,1), (10,2), (10,3), (10,4), (10,5), (10,6), (10,7), (10,8), (10,9), (10,10). The grid is partially filled with numbers: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

22 23 24 25 26

ACROSS DOWN

1 Time to come (6)	1 Time lies (4)
4 Moves (6)	2 Femoral area (5)
9 Soft loaf (7)	3 Storyteller (9)
10 Globe (5)	5 Cut (3)
11 At what time (4)	6 Surrender as penalty (7)
12 Oriental (7)	7 Rail by-pass (6)
14 Retreated to lair (4,2,5)	8 Charitable deed (8,3)
18 Yield (7)	11 Barrister's headress (3)
19 Harnburg river (4)	13 Blame taker (9)
	15 Result (7)

22 Strongroom (5) 16 Garden weeder (3)
24 Lawn hoop game (7) 17 Journey (6)
25 Interior covering (6) 20 Bannockburn Robert (5)
26 Scattered (6) 21 Astonish (4)
23 2,240 pounds (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2704

ACROSS: 1 Trench 5 Pain 8 Leaky 9 Naughty
11 Demolish 13 Slow 15 Brigadier 18 Last
19 Stiletto 22 Premium 23 Funds 24 Flay 25 Trepan

DOWN: 2 Rearm 3 Ney 4 Honest attempt
5 Plum 6 Inhaler 7 Blade 10 Yaws 12 Lair
14 Girl 15 Boswell 16 Clip 17 Bossy 20 Tonga
21 Why 23 Foe

Solution: 1 ... Grl 2 Bgs 4ll and the dual threats of
3 ... Oxt 1 and 3 ... exds net a piece.

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THE TIMES
Law Report
appears on
page 9 of
Life & Times

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (78520)
 6.30 **Breakfast News** (79964033)
 9.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion (4405100)
 9.50 **Hot Chefs**, Bistro-style food (5410278)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (8260991) 10.05 **Playdays** (r) (1650013) 10.25 **Pingu**, Cartoon (r) (5270278) 10.35 **No Kidding**, Mike Smith hosts the family quiz (6740548)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (7346384) 11.05 **Wildlife**, The natural history programme looks at how mothers in the animal world carry their young (7637723) 11.30 **People Today** (5313520), including at 12.00 News
 12.00 **Pebble Mill** (r) (3229384) 12.55 **Regional news and weather** (9326926)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (57742)
 1.30 **Neighbours**, Australian soap, (Cee-fax) (r) (6044829)
 1.50 **Going for Gold**, Henry Kelly hosts the European quiz (60442013)
 2.15 **Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters**, Coverage of the match between Terry Griffiths and Neal Foulds at Wembley Conference Centre (53742)

- 3.50 **Children's BBC**, Joshua Jones, Cartoon (7925636) 4.00 **The New York Bear Show**, Animation (r) (5219568) 4.10 **The Stanley Stories**, Stanley and the Magic Lamp, David Healy reads part of the story by Jeff Brown for Jackanory (5790029) 4.25 **Fantastic Max**, Cartoon (r) (9256075) 4.35 **The Really Wild World**, The nature programme looks at animals' bones
 Europe's rarest bat, lazy animals and apes (2677810) 5.00 **Newsround** (7990888) 5.10 **Grange Hill**, Children's drama series, (Cee-fax) (r) (2445433)
 5.35 **Neighbours**, (Cee-fax) (r) (604926) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **One O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Maura Stuart, (Cee-fax) (r) (655)
 6.30 **Regional news magazines** (907), Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r), (Cee-fax)
 7.00 **Holiday** presented by Anneka Rice, Jimmy Mulville reports from Euro Disney and Eamonn Holmes finds out what Israel has to offer the discerning British tourist, (Cee-fax) (r) (8181)
 7.30 **Eastenders**, (Cee-fax) (r) (891)
 8.00 **The Variety Club Awards for 1991**, Jonathan Ross introduces the annual showbusiness awards ceremony from the London Hilton on Park Lane (r) (2617)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis, (Cee-fax), Regional news and weather (6758)



A nose for tracking criminals: Jimmy Nail as Spender (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Spender: The Golden Striker**, Gritty and absorbing drama series starring Jimmy Nail as the dishevelled Georgia detective, Spender investigates the disappearance of a star footballer (951365), Wales: 10.00-10.55 **Spender**
 10.25 **Film '92** with Barry Norman who takes a critical look at the recent cinema releases including *Baron Pink*, *For the Boys* and *Death in Brunswick* (r) (307654)
 10.55 **Sportsnight Special**, Coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker continues with tonight's match between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis, plus football action from the fourth-round matches in the FA cup (4908094)
 12.30 **News**, (Cee-fax) (r) (891)
 12.35 **Close 2.00** The *Way Ahead* (r) (5260940), Ends at 2.15

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video, tape in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 121 121 or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, Pluscode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Managing Schools** (8655100), Ends at 7.10 (5135810)
 8.00 **Breakfast News** (2792181)
 8.15 **Westminster**, News from both Houses of Parliament (8724365)
 9.00 **Daytime on Two: France Francais** (6172028) 9.15 **Lentopress** (1807365) 9.30 **ICI Paris** (r) (6089181) 9.45 **You and Me** (6084836) 10.00 **Over the Moon** (3749520) 10.15 **Look and Read** (1954839) 10.35 **Q & A** (7506228) 10.40 **Let's See** (3227100), Northern Ireland: Study Ireland 11.00 **Watch** (9612878) 11.15 **English Express** (1684164) 11.30 **Science Challenge** (2699452) 11.55 **Into Music** (r) (4453192) 12.15 **Worlds of Action** (2626044) 12.30 **History File** (4823636) 12.55 **A Way with Numbers** (4827452) 1.25 **PC Pinkerton** (7775926) 1.25 **Freeman Sam** (5396839) 1.35 **Crystal Tipps and Alistair** (14912346) 1.40 **Hawk's Eye** (60420891) 2.00 **News and Weather** (10752094) followed by *You and Me* (74397810)
 2.15 **In the Garden**, February, It is time to sow seeds (74394346)
 2.30 **See Head With** signing and subtitles (r) (558)
 3.00 **News and Weather** (5148543) followed by *Westminster Live* with Vivian White including prime minister's question time (5655666)
 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (7923278)
 4.00 **Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters**, Eamonn Holmes introduces further coverage of the second-round match between Neil Foulds and Terry Griffiths (2588)
 5.00 **Behind the Headlines** (r) (9487)
 5.10 **Old Garden, New Gardener** (r), (Cee-fax) (384)
 6.00 **Film: Ring of Bright Water** (1968), Likable family tale, based on Gavin Maxwell's autobiographical book, about a civil servant who buys a pet otter, Mj, and moves to the Scottish Highlands. Starring *Born Free's* Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna. Directed by Jack Couffer (1131441)
 7.45 **Assignment: A Dangerous Liaison**, David Walter reports from France on the political clout of the National Front and its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen (198452)
 8.30 **Food and Drink**, special ideas for packed lunches, travels to New Zealand to taste "miracle" wines and cooks a warming stew for winter (r) (1278)
 9.00 **The American**, Sci-fi series, Scientist Scott Bakula travels back to 1982 and becomes a high school football star, (Cee-fax) (r) (116839)



Travel to new and exciting places: a former high-flier (9.50pm)

- 9.50 **40 Minutes: Suburbs in the Sky**
 ● CHOICE: In one of the best of recent offerings from 40 Minutes, Chris Pettit charts the history of the British air hostesses. The film is based on a mosaic of interviews, imaginatively spliced and set to music. Time was when the job required a well-bred girl who was a cross between a nanny and a governess. Judging by the accents of Pettit's younger contributors, the social catchment area has widened. During post-war austerity the New York run was a trip to paradise. One hostess paid her rent by bringing back American nylons and selling them to her friends. The job meant an escape from home life but hostesses were not allowed to marry or have children for ten years. There were restrictions of in-flight romances, wild stopover parties and the smuggling of watches in bras and wrist-pickers. The one sour note is struck by the ghost of Malcolm Muggeridge. He thought air hostesses should be murdered (r). (Teletext) (125013)
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman (164297)
 11.00 **News**, Arts and media magazine (r) (80742)
 11.55 **Westward** (r) (17142)
 12.00 **Open University: Science**, Fries of Life (5880940)
 12.55 **News Behind the Headlines** (r) (8835940), Ends at 1.00

- Home and Away** (570839) 12.30pm **Newsnight** (5880940) 12.40pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 1.00pm **Countdown** (104052) 1.30pm **News** (5880940) 1.40pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 1.50pm **Countdown** (104052) 2.00pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 2.10pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 2.20pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 2.30pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 2.40pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 2.50pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.00pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.10pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.20pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.30pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.40pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 3.50pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.00pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.10pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.20pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.30pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.40pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 4.50pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 5.00pm **Star Trek: Voyager** (5880940) 5.10pm **Star 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